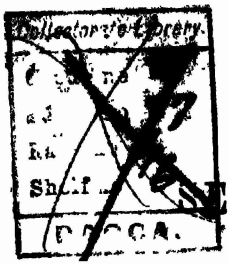

SELECTIONS

FROM

THE RECORDS

OF THE

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

No. XXXIII.—PART II.

PAPERS

RELATING TO

INDIGO CULTIVATION IN BENGAL.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

PART II.

Subject.	*Page.*
No. XX.—Papers connected with the Notification of 14th March 1860, and the Law for the summary enforcement of Indigo Contracts, ...	349 to 390
No. XXI.—Letter from Central Committee of Indigo Planters' Association regarding Mr. Eden's appointment to an Indigo District, with the reply thereto, ...	391
No XXII.—Petition of Ryots complaining of Mr. Meaes, an Indigo Planter, and Mr. Skinner, Joint Magistrate of Jessore, and correspondence thereupon, ...	392 to 398
No XXIII.—Complaint by Mr. John White, Indigo Planter, against Mr. L. S. Hutchinson, Moonsiff of Hanskallee, ...	399 to 401
No. XXIV.—Proceedings connected with the excitement on the Indigo Question in the Nuddea Division, ...	402 to 493
No. XXV.—Proceedings connected with the excitement on the gIndio Question in the Rajshahye Division, ...	494 to 569
No. XXVI.—Correspondence relative to a Perwannah issued by Baboo Hemchunder Kur, Deputy Magistrate of Kalarooah, to which the Indigo excitement had been by some attributed, ...	570 to 604

PAPERS

RELATING TO

INDIGO CULTIVATION

IN

Bengal.

PART II.

No. XX.

The humble Petition of the Indigo Planters' Association in Bengal, to the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

SHOWETH,

THAT your Petitioners are largely engaged in a cultivation which they are told, on the highest authority, it is the object of the Supreme Government to foster and encourage. Mr. Wilson, who, in the opening of his Financial Statement of the 18th ultimo, stated that he had in his proposals "the fullest, the amplest concurrence of the Noble Earl, the Governor-General, and of his other Colleagues in Council," also distinctly objected to increase the Export Duty on Indigo, because, among other reasons, "it is one of the few cultivations in India which attract British capital and skill to direct Native labor." Mr. Wilson goes on to say, "that is the kind of industry which, above all others, the Government would wish to encourage, and on that account alone they would feel precluded from placing any impediment in the way of its extension. It would be more in consonance with our views to remove what little Duty there now is, as soon as circumstances will permit,

The value of the influence of European gentlemen settled in our country districts cannot, in our opinion, be over estimated, and it will be the steadfast policy of the Government to encourage it in every way we can."

Your Petitioners learn that you yourself, Sir, have expressed sentiments similar to those of the Supreme Government on this subject. In a letter, of which we are sorry to say very bad use has been made, you say, "it would be greatly to be lamented if anything should check Indigo cultivation, so long as it is a wholesome commercial enterprise."

But at the moment such favorable expressions towards us are being uttered by the Supreme Government, and that of Bengal, we find the Manager of the Sindoorie Concern writing to us, under date of the 21st February, "The Ryots are fully under the impression that Government wish to suppress the cultivation of Indigo, and will support them against the Planter, and they certainly have every reason for saying so, for they are often told so by the Police." He also states, that "it is impossible to bring any cases against the Ryots in the Mofussil Courts, as we cannot get witnesses to prove them; even our servants dare not go into Court to give evidence." And on the 29th he writes, "The Ryots are at present in a great state of excitement; in fact they are mad, and ready for any mischief. They daily try to burn our Factory and Seed Golahs. Most of our servants have left us from fear, as the Ryots have threatened to murder them and burn their houses; and I fear the few that are still with us will soon leave, for the Ryots prevent them getting food from the neighbouring Bazars. If some most stringent steps are not taken by the Government at once, none of us will be able to remain in the Mofussil, and then there will be a general *loot* of the Factories—rather a serious state of affairs when you consider what is at stake. Even now it is not safe to ride from Factory to Factory. The whole country is up; and if it goes on much longer in this way there is no saying what may happen. The Police are all against us."

The Manager of the Bengal Indigo Company writes, that his Assistants are attacked in the open field, and go to their business in fear of their lives. He says, "I never had a difficulty with my Ryots except at the instigation of Government Officers. I have induced young men of the highest respectability to join the Bengal Indigo Company's employ as Assistants; but how can I expect them to re-

main or carry on business if they are to be maltreated when riding quietly over their cultivation." He states that the disturbances in his Concern are owing to the "current belielf that the Government is determined on putting a stop to all Indigo Planting."

The Manager of the Neeschindeepore Concern writes, on the 15th of February, "For the past four months every Indigo property in this District has been, and still is, in the most serious danger; and only great prudence and activity will prevent mischief. An indiscreet order on the part of the Magistrate would set the District in a blaze." And again, on the 29th of February, "Some Villages of Katcheekatta have begun to behave badly, all caused by the extraordinary outbreak at Lokenathpore, and which is daily getting worse.

The Manager of the Carragoda Factory writes, on the 1st March, "I am sorry to say that the Ryots of the Soobdy Factory have been told by the Ryots of Kadjoorah Factory of the Goldar Division, and by those belonging to Ailhass Factory of the Sindoorie Division, to join with them to present a petition against us. My Ryots said that they have nothing to complain of, whereupon they were told that they would not be allowed to remain in their Villages. I am doing my best to keep them quiet; but the whole District is in revolution, and the mutinous Ryots say they will not sow Indigo, having the Lord Saheb on their side, who has told them they need not sow Indigo if they do not like to do so."

But your Petitioners would bring to your notice that these are not mere reports unsupported by facts. Mr. Campbell, Assistant in the Mulnath Concern, was attacked and beaten, and left for dead on the field. Mr. Hyde, Assistant in the same Concern, was pelted with clods, and only saved himself by the speed of his horse.

The Factory houses at Kadjoorah, in the Lokenathpore Concern, were plundered and burnt down.

Toltollah Factory, in Lokenathpore, was threatened.

The out-houses of Chandpore, in the Goldar Concern, were burned down.

Your Petitioners would submit that these outrages are not the effect of any oppression on the part of the Planters, for the Managers of Concerns throughout Bengal have of late years made large concessions to the Ryots with regard to payments, being necessitated to do so by the great rise in wages, and increase in the price of articles of food, which has taken place during the last five or six years.

Your Petitioners would moreover state that neither is it a consequence of the unprofitableness of Indigo growing, as has been often stated, and they court the fullest inquiry into this point.

Your Petitioners conceive that the cause of the unusual outbreak in many of the quietest Concerns in Lower Bengal is the diligent propagation, by a late Magistrate of Baraset, among his subordinates and others, of the notion that the Government of Bengal intended, by its letter No. 4516, of July 21st 1859, to the address of the Commissioner of Nuddea District, to aid the Ryots, by the Police, in evading their contracts to sow Indigo.

Your Petitioners have received copy of a Perwannah issued to the Darogah of Thannah Kolarooah, of which the following is a translation: —

No. 1603.

To the Darogah of Thannah Kolarooah.

BE IT KNOWN,

A LETTER of the Magistrate of Baraset, dated 17th August 1859, has arrived, enclosing Extract of a letter, No. 4516, from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated 21st July 1859, and addressed to the Nuddea Commissioner, which, in referring to certain Indigo matters, states that the Ryots are to keep possession of their own lands, sowing thereon such crops as they may desire; that the Police should take care that neither Indigo Planters nor other persons should interfere with the Ryots; that Indigo Planters shall not be able, under pretence of the Ryots having agreed to sow Indigo, to cause Indigo to be sown by the use of violence on the lands of those Ryots; and that if the Ryots have indeed agreed to do so, the Indigo Planters are at liberty to sue them for the same in the Civil Court, the Fouzdaree Court having no concern at all in that matter; for the Ryots can bring forward numerous objections to their cultivating Indigo and in respect of their denial of the above agreement.

Therefore this general Perwannah is addressed to you, that you may act in future as stated above.

The 20th August 1859.

Your Petitioners would submit that such an interference as the above, between the Capitalist and Laborer, is unwarranted by the practice of any civilized country. Your Petitioners would also remark, that were such an order as the above issued by any Magistrate in the manufacturing or mining districts in England, strikes would inevitably occur among the laborers, as much more dangerous in character than those in Bengal, as the Englishman is more dangerous and energetic than the Bengallee.

Your Petitioners would observe, that in the case of Opium cultivation, where Government holds a similar position to that of the Indigo Planter towards the Ryot, a special Law for the fulfilment of contracts for the cultivation of Opium was required, and has long been enacted. A special Law, Act XIII. of 1859, exists for the punishment of breaches of contract by Artificers, Workmen, and Laborers in the Towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. A Law to provide for the summary enforcement of contracts between Workmen on Railways and other Public Works and their Employers has just passed the Legislature. If Government, and Railway Contractors armed with some of the powers of Government, and receiving assistance from Government Officers, and Tradesmen in the Presidency Towns, who have the advantage of the Supreme and Small Cause Courts, require special Laws for compelling the fulfilment of contracts, surely the unprotected Englishman settled in the Interior does so much more, and surely this will not be denied to "that kind of industry which above all others the Government would wish to encourage."

Your Petitioners would therefore pray for the issue, on the part of the Government of Bengal, of some Notification which shall disabuse the minds of the Ryots of the idea that it is the intention of Government to interfere in any way with the cultivation of Indigo, and that his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor be pleased to move the Hon'ble Member of the Legislative Council for Bengal to introduce a Bill for the summary trial and punishment of breaches of contract in the Mofussil.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c., &c.

W. WISE,
Chairman.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(No. 926, dated the 14th March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to forward to you herewith a Notification which I am to request you will, as speedily as possible, have very carefully translated into Bengalee, and distributed extensively in those Districts of your Division in which misunderstanding has occurred, or is likely to occur, in connection with the cultivation of Indigo.

2. You can have any number you require of these notices struck off, either at the Allipore Jail Press, or in that attached to my Office.

3. You will understand, and the Lieutenant-Governor desires that you will be careful to explain to the Magistrates to whom you forward these notices, that it is not intended by this Notification that the Police should interfere for the purpose of enforcing any civil contract. Breaches of contract between Indigo Planters and Ryots can be remedied only in the manner authorized by Law. The object of the Notification is to do away with a false impression, which there is reason to suppose exists, as to the views of Government in regard to the cultivation of Indigo. and which is alleged to have had its origin partly in the injudicious publication of the Perwannah submitted with your letter of the 9th instant, in which Perwannah an Order of Government was inaccurately represented.

Notification.

It appears from the reports of Local Officers, as well as from complaints which have been preferred to the Lieutenant-Governor by Indigo Planters, that a misapprehension prevails in the minds of the Ryots of some Districts as to the views of Government in regard to the cultivation of Indigo; and that in some places it has been falsely represented,

by designing persons, that the Government is desirous to discourage the cultivation of Indigo ; and even that the Police will protect Ryots in the evasion of contracts entered into by them with Indigo Planters. It is surprising that such foolish reports should have obtained credence. Nevertheless it is proper that they should be authoritatively contradicted. Whereforé it is hereby declared that although it is always optional with Ryots to take advances and to enter into contracts for Indigo, or not to do so, as they may think best for their own interests, and in this matter they require no assistance beyond that of the Law, which is equally fair to all parties, still if they do enter into such contracts lawfully, and of their own will, they must expect to be required to fulfil them. If they dishonestly refuse to act up to their engagements, they will be liable to the lawful consequences of such misconduct.

From A. GROTE, ESQ., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 74 Ct., dated Allipore, the 16th March 1860.)

SIR,

REFERRING to your letter No. 926, under date the 14th instant, received yesterday, I have the honor to state for the information of Government that the orders communicated have been duly carried out.

2. Twenty five copies of the accompanying Bengallee Notification, the same being a translation of that enclosed in your letter, were forwarded to each of the Districts of Nuddea and Jessore by yesterday's post, and 300 more are now under dispatch to those Districts. I am also issuing 140 copies to the Magistrate of Barraset, whose attention, as well as that of the Magistrates of Nuddea and Jessore, have been especially drawn to para. 3 of the orders.

P. S.—The Magistrates have been told to indent for further copies if necessary on the Allipore Jail Press.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Commissioners of Dacca and Rajshahye—(Nos. 1059 and 1060, dated the 21st March 1860.)

Sir,

I Am directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to forward to you, for distribution to the Officers in charge of those districts of your Division in which Indigo cultivation is extensively carried on, five hundred copies of a Bengallee Notification, issued by Government in consequence of the excitement at present prevailing in some parts of the Lower Provinces in connection with this matter.

2. The Lieutenant Governor expects that the District Officers will use their discretion as to publishing this Proclamation in their respective Districts. Where the erroneous belief, because of which the Proclamation was published in Nuddea, does not prevail, the Proclamation should not be published. Wherever that erroneous belief does prevail, if the Magistrate is satisfied that it will do good, it may be published.

From J. S. Spankie, Esq., Magistrate of Maldah, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Judicial Department, Fort William,—(No. 51, dated Maldah the 22nd March 1860.)

Sir,

I request you will have the goodness to send me up sundry copies of the Lieutenant Governor's Notification to the Ryots of Kishnaghur, &c., by Dawk Post. I shall be glad to receive as many as you consider it possible to send by letter post.

From A. R. Young, Esq, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Magistrate of Maldah,—(No. 1249, dated the 26th March 1860.)

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 51, dated the 22nd instant, I am directed to inform you that a hundred copies of the Government Notification therein referred to have been despatched to your address by this day's post.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to A. Sconce, Esq., Legislative Member for Bengal,—(No. 1065, dated the 21st March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to forward to you herewith a copy of a Petition presented to the Lieutenant Governor by the Indigo Planters, Association on the 13th instant, and of a recent correspondence on the subject to which it relates.* Further correspondence and any papers which can be traced in this office connected with the passing of the several Acts referred to in Mr. Grote's letter of the 7th November last, No. 141C., will be sent to you hereafter; and I am to request that you will be good enough carefully to consider the whole subject of contracts between Indigo Planters and Ryots, and that you will favor the Lieutenant-Governor with your opinion as to the expediency of special legislation with reference to these contracts, and the nature of the provisions of the Bill, if any, which you would advise to be introduced for adjudicating cases arising out of them.

From Commr. of Nuddea No. 62Ct., dated the 6th March 1860. and Enclosure
" ditto, " 70Ct., dated the 12th March.
" ditto, " 71Ct., dated the 13th March.
To ditto, " 926, dated the 14th "
" ditto, " 983, dated the 17th "
" ditto, " 1024, dated the 19th "
From ditto, " 78Ct., dated the 19th "
To ditto, " 982, dated the 17th "
From Secretary Indigo Planters' Association dated the 13th March.
From Commr. of Nuddea No. dated the 21st March 1860.
To ditto, " 1053, dated the 21st " "
To ditto, " 1081, dated the 22nd " "
Petition of Indigo Planters' Association.

Cons. 3rd March 1829, No. 1-2.
" 9th June 1828-30, No. 1-32.
Pro. 8th Sept. 1835, No. 17.
" 9th June 1835, No. 30-1.
" 5th May 1835, No. 1-2.

From A. FORBES, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Indigo Planters' Association, to the Honorable J. P. GRANT, Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.—(No. 2, Old Post Office Street, 21st March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to state that I am directed by the Central Committee of the Indigo Planters' Association to remind you of your promise to their Deputation, to consult with Mr. Sconce as to the advisa-

bility of introducing a Law for the summary punishment of breaches of Indigo contracts, and to communicate your decision to the Association.

The Committee is induced to press this matter upon your consideration in consequence of its having been found that the Notification issued by the Bengal Government on the 14th instant has failed to have the desired effect. The Committee would suggest that a Law should be immediately passed, empowering Magistrates to punish with fine and imprisonment any Ryot who may be proved to be under advances to sow Indigo for this season, and who may refuse to fulfil his engagements.

With this feeling, it is the intention of the Indigo Planters' Association, in case you should not think it proper to recommend the Law yourself, to petition the Legislative Council for such a Law.

As the matter is very pressing, the Committee would beg the favor of an early reply.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to A. FORBES, ESQ., Officiating Secretary to the Indigo Planters' Association,—(Dated the 22nd March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated yesterday, and in reply to inform you that the Lieutenant Governor has communicated with Mr. Sconce, as promised, and that he believes that a Bill will be introduced in the Legislative Council on Saturday next, for the summary enforcement of Indigo Contracts.

From the LIEUT.-GOVERNOR of BENGAL, to A. SCONCE, ESQ., Legislative Member for Bengal,—(Belvidere, dated the 23rd March 1860.)

MY DEAR SCONCE,

I SEND you a fair copy of the Bill which I think will do for a first and second reading pretty well as it is; I have tried to introduce the alterations determined on this evening.

My reasons for recommending the Bill are in short these :—

That there is ground for believing that a great commercial calamity is threatened by the feeling which has suddenly manifested itself

amongst Indigo Ryots to repudiate their agreements to cultivate Indigo, although advances have been made to and accepted by them, only a short time ago, in the usual manner, and upon the usual understanding, namely, that they should cultivate Indigo for the Planters at the usual rates. I am myself of the opinion that the Indigo cultivators have and long have had great and increasing ground of just complaint against the whole system of Indigo cultivation. But if they desired to break off their connection with that system they should have done so before receiving the season's advances. After working off existing engagements, for which they have received the usual advance, they will have it in their power honestly to refuse to grow another plant of Indigo unless it is made for their own interest to do so. It will be monstrous if they are not allowed, not merely by the theory of the Law, but in effect, to exercise their legal and moral right in this matter. But they have, in my opinion, no moral right, and certainly they have no legal right, to turn suddenly round upon the Planters, and with nothing to complain of now, more than they had before, to refuse to do what up to this moment they have led the Planters to expect that they would do according to custom and agreement. I conceive, that whether the custom is good or bad, and whether the agreement on the Ryot's part be provident or improvident, and whether the general position of the Ryot who grows Indigo be or be not, for the time being, one of great hardship, no individual Ryot has a moral right to break his agreement. And still less can I think that a mass of Ryots who have agreed, and accepted advances in the usual manner, have any moral right to combine for the purpose of simultaneously breaking their agreements in order to ruin the other party. Against such a combination,—and for the purpose of saving from ruin, if possible, a great commercial interest, which, however false its position may long have been, has certainly done nothing to the injury of the Ryot since the last advances were made and accepted in usual course a few weeks ago,—it appears to me that a Law giving a very summary but still a fair trial, and inflicting penal damages on the party who after a fair trial is found to be determined wilfully to break his engagements, is both justifiable and proper. The Draft of a Law which I enclose does no more than this, but I am of opinion that no Law that could be framed regarding Indigo Planting at the present moment should be more than temporay. Especially, I think that no Law in the interest of the Planter could, at the present moment, be

honestly proposed which should have any effect beyond the season now running on. We all of us know that the system is full of abuses. If we had never heard a word about Indigo Planting since we arrived in India; if there was not upon record a single case of abuse, on the part of an Indigo Planter or a Zemindar (and in this respect I desire to draw no invidious distinction between one class and another), the mere fact of the existence of the present difficulty would in itself prove that the system is rotten, and that the rottenness consists in this, that in practice the Ryot is made to act like a slave, not like a free man. Under a wholesome and fair system of trade there must be in all dealings between two parties mutual gain, or at least the hope of mutual gain, and both parties to every dealing must be free agents. If, therefore, the Indigo Planting trade were in a wholesome and fair state, and an equal Law were practically applicable to the rich and to the poor in dealings between Planter and Ryot, it is certain that the Ryot would be as much afraid of the manufacturer not buying his plant, as clamorous for a special Law on his side, as the manufacturer is afraid that the Ryot will not cultivate and supply him with enough of the plant, and clamorous for special Law on his side. We see that the present struggle on the part of the Ryots is to avoid the cultivation of Indigo. From this it is certain that Ryots who cultivate Indigo are forced to do so by illegitimate coercion. The same men who fight for the privilege of cultivating a field with Rice, for sale in the open market, are now almost in rebellion in order to escape the calamity of cultivating a field with Indigo for sale (if sale it can be called) to the Planter.

There must be a thorough inquiry into the whole system. There would have been such an inquiry long ago, I believe, if people had not been afraid of bringing on such a crisis as has now occurred. The system was such that sooner or later a crisis was certain; it has now come in the natural course of things, and there is no longer an excuse for shirking the disclosure of the disease, and the application of the remedy. For these reasons I could recommend no Law other than a temporary Law, and no Law of any sort unless its promulgation to the Ryots may be accompanied with a promise of full and thorough inquiry into past practice, and thereafter of a well considered Law which shall afford practically equal and complete protection to the Ryots as well as to the Planter.

A Bill to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo Contracts.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient, pending a Commission of Inquiry into the practice of Indigo Planting in Bengal, which the Executive Government purposes to appoint after the close of the present season of cultivation, to make temporary provision for enforcing by summary process the execution of agreements entered into for the cultivation of Indigo plant; and better to provide for the punishment of certain unlawful acts connected with such cultivation; It is enacted as follows:—

Magistrate may, on complaint, issue summons for appearance of a person who has received a cash advance and delays or neglects to cultivate land according to agreement.

I. If any person who has received a cash advance upon his agreement to cultivate Indigo plant during the season now current, shall wilfully delay or omit from and after the 24th day of March 1860 to cultivate according to the conditions of his agreement the whole quantity of land which he has agreed to cultivate, and for the cultivation of which the cash advance was made, it shall be competent to the Magistrate to entertain a complaint made to the above effect on oath by the Planter who has made the advance, or by any person on his behalf, and to summon the person complained of to appear before him in order to the investigation of the complaint preferred. If the Magistrate has reason to believe that the person complained of will not appear in obedience to the summons, he may issue a warrant for the arrest of such person.

Penalty.

II. On hearing the answer of the person complained of, and on taking such evidence as both parties may adduce, if the complaint be established to the satisfaction of the Magistrate, the Magistrate shall assess a certain sum as damages not exceeding five times the said advance made, and five times the value of any seed that may have been furnished to him for such cultivation, to be paid by the defendant; and failing the immediate payment of the damages assessed may order the defendant to be imprisoned in the Civil Jail for a term not exceeding three months, and may on the motion of the complainant furthermore proceed to levy the damages assessed from the property of the defendant in the mode provided for enforcing decrees of Court under Act VIII of 1859 *(for simplifying the Proce-*

Proviso.

dure of the Courts of Civil Judicature not established by Royal Charter.) Provided that if the amount of the said damages is paid or levied within the aforesaid term of three months, the defendant shall be released from Jail on that amount being paid or levied.

Penalty for intimidation, &c.

III. If any person from and after the 24th day of March 1860 shall by violence, threats, or otherwise intimidate or attempt to intimidate any other person who shall have entered into any such agreement as aforesaid, with the intention of inducing such person to break the conditions thereof; or if any person from and after the date aforesaid shall conspire with any other person or persons for the purpose of causing the breach of any such contract or contracts as aforesaid, he shall on conviction before a Magistrate be liable to a sentence of imprisonment with or without labor for a period not exceeding six months, or to a fine not exceeding two hundred Rupees, or to both, such fine being commutable, if not paid, to a further period of imprisonment not exceeding six months.

Penalty for destroying or damaging crops.

IV. If any person shall maliciously destroy or damage, or if any person shall maliciously command, compel, or persuade, or shall with others maliciously conspire to command, compel, or persuade any other person to destroy or damage any growing crop of Indigo, he shall on conviction before a Magistrate be liable to be sentenced to imprisonment with or without labor for a period not exceeding six months, or to a fine not exceeding two hundred Rupees, or to both, such fine being commutable, if not paid, to a further period of imprisonment not exceeding six months.

No appeal.

V. No appeal shall lie from the decision of a Magistrate under this Act.

Jurisdiction.

VI. The power of a Magistrate under this Act may be exercised by any person vested with the full powers of a Magistrate, and by any Assistant Magistrate or Deputy Magistrate specially empowered on that behalf by the local Government.

Duration of Act.

VII. This Act shall have effect from and after the 24th day of March 1860, within the Territories subject to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. And no complaint or prosecution shall be entertained under this Act, unless preferred within six months from the date aforesaid.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioners of Nudden and Rajshahye,—(Nos. 1273 and 1274, dated the 27th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to draw your immediate attention to the "Bill to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo Contracts," which was read a first and second time in the Legislative Council on Saturday last.

2. This Bill, as it is framed, when passed into Law will take effect from Saturday last the 24th instant, and the Lieutenant Governor directs that its provisions be immediately enforced by Magistrates, as though the Bill were Law at this moment. The wording of the Bill shows that this is the intention and object of the Legislative Council.

3. The provisions of this Bill, so far as they affect the Ryots, must be very carefully explained to them. In the Lieutenant Governor's opinion this explanation will be best made by the several thannadars, each in his own thannah.

4. With this view it will be proper for you to issue forthwith through your subordinates, for promulgation in all those places where any excitement or unusual feeling in relation to Indigo Planting exists, a Notice in conformity with those provisions.

5. It must be stated that it is the desire of Government that those Ryots who have received cash advances, upon their agreement to cultivate Indigo during the current season, shall honestly fulfil that agreement. It must be explained that any such Ryot who refuses or delays so to fulfil his agreement shall be liable to be brought before a Magistrate, on the complaint of the Indigo Planter who made the cash advance; and if the Magistrate, after hearing both parties and taking evidence, decides that the Ryot has broken his agreement, that Ryot may be ordered immediately, in presence of the Magistrate, to pay five times the cash advance, and if he has had seed advanced to him, five times the value of the seed; failing which he will be sent to jail, whilst the amount of the fine will be levied by the sale of his property. This, it may be said, is the order of Government.

6. It should, moreover, be explained that any person who shall by threats or otherwise attempt to prevent Ryots who have entered into contracts of the above nature from fulfilling those contracts, or who shall conspire with others in any such attempt, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment or both; and any person who shall maliciously destroy or

damage, or shall conspire or attempt to persuade others to destroy or damage, any growing crop of Indigo, shall be similarly punished.

7. But it must also be explained that the order extends only to the current season; and it is the intention of Government before the period of taking advances for next season arrives, to institute searching inquiry into the causes of the disputes between Indigo Planters and Ryots engaged in the cultivation of Indigo; and to pass such further Laws and orders as will ensure to both parties their just rights, and shall remove any reasonable causes of dissatisfaction which the Ryots may have to show. With this object a special Commission of Inquiry will very soon be appointed.

(To Commissioner of Nuddea.)

8. It is very desirable that wherever there is a large Indigo cultivation, and the probability of numerous disputes regarding Indigo agreements, there should be in the close neighbourhood an Officer at hand to carry out this new Act, and with this object three additional Officers with full Magisterial powers have recently been placed at your disposal, and can be located wherever you consider they are most likely to be required; other Officers now in your district are, of course, also available for the same duty. If any of those Officers who have not now full powers are, in your opinion, competent to decide cases under this Act, they will be specially vested with the requisite powers for this particular purpose, on your recommendation. You will bear in mind what was said in a late letter regarding the necessity of giving every Officer deputed into the interior of a District,

(To Commissioner of Rajshahye.)

8. It is very desirable that wherever there is a large cultivation, and the probability of numerous disputes regarding Indigo agreements, there should be in the close neighbourhood an Officer at hand to carry out this new Act. All Officers having full powers of a Magistrate, who are now in your districts, are, of course, available for this duty, and can be located as may seem to you advisable. If any other Officers who have not now full powers are, in your opinion, competent to decide cases under the Act, they will on your recommendation be specially vested with the requisite powers for this particular purpose. Mr. Furrell, of the Aurungabad Sub-Division, has this day been vested with those special powers. Should you require an additional number of Officers to give effect to the Act in any District, you should lose no time in applying for them. It is necessary that every

where excitement prevails, a sufficient guard of Military Police to maintain his authority.	Officer deputed into the interior of a district for the purpose of carrying out this Act, should be attended by a sufficient guard of the Military Police to maintain his authority, and to put down immediately any disturbance.

From A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 3, dated Kishnaghur, 29th March 1860.)

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 1273 of the 27th instant, I beg to append for His Honor's information, copy of my instructions of this date to the three Magistrates in whose Districts suits under the new Act will be instituted.

2. I have applied demi-officially for further copies of the Bill, and to have Mr. Assistant Maclean and Mr. Deputy Magistrate Platts empowered to decide these suits.

3. My impression is that the mere promulgation of the purport of the new Law will remove all hesitation to sow on the part of those Ryots who have received money.

From A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Officiating Magistrates of Baraset, Nuddea and Jessore,—(No. 6, Circular, dated Kishnaghur, the 29th March 1860.)

Sir,

I beg to annex for your guidance extracts from Government orders, dated 27th March 1860, No. 1273, on the subject of the new Bill for enforcing Indigo contracts already forwarded to you, which you will observe is to be enforced as Law at once.

2. Orders to the purport of para. 3 of the above letter must be issued to the Police immediately on the receipt of this.

3. I apprehend that the first suits will be instituted in the Thannahs of the Damoorhoodah and Bungong Sub-Divisions, and in those of Hadrah and Meherpore of Nuddea, and in Thannah Kaloopole of Jessore.

4. In the latter Thannah, Mr. Molony and Mr. Skinner will so distribute their camps as to enable them to dispose as fast as possible of the suits so instituted. Mr. Deputy Magistrate Betts, who arrived this morning, will be directed to join Mr. Molony's camp to assist in their adjudication.

5. In Bungong, Mr. McNeile will be probably equal to disposing of all the suits which may be instituted there, whether from Nuddea or Baraset, in which latter District he has also full powers.

6. In Damoorhoodah, Mr. Maclean (for whom I have applied for full powers) will be assisted if necessary by Mr. Herschel and Mr Taylor, who on his arrival may I think be made to hold kucherry at Haut-Boleah.

7. At Meherpore, Mr. Platts, for whom also I have applied for full powers, will dispose of such suits as are instituted there or at Bamoondee

8. Mr. D. M. Mackenzie, who arrived on Tuesday, should be sent to Hadrah.

9. Each of the new Officers must have with him two Omlahs on 20 or 25 Rupees per month for the purpose of recording evidence. It would be convenient if the Magistrates could furnish these men from their fixed Establishments, filling up their places temporarily there.

10. Each Officer should have a small party of Military Police at hand, wherever he may for the time be holding his court. The present distribution of Captain Raban's Battalion is as follows:—

Subdhee.—Jessore Magistrate's Camp, 50 men under Lieut. Howard, and 50 men of Major Miles' Battalion, under Lieut. Smith, are on their way to join him.

Damoorhoodah.—Eighty men under Lieutenant Duff.

Haut-Boleah.—Thirty men under a Native Officer.

Meherpore.—Fifty men under Lieutenant Robertson.

11. I have to-day requested Captain Raban to detach 30 men under a Native Officer to Bamoondee, supplying their place from head-quarters, which will be strengthened in a day or two by the arrival of the Guards relieved at the Presidency.

12. I have also told Lieutenant Baker to march his party of 50 men to Hadrah.

13. On the arrival of the Lahore Light Horse, which may not be till after my departure, Mr. Herschel is requested to instruct the Commanding Officer to detach 60 men to Damoorhoodah—half to remain at that Station, and half to proceed to join the Jessore Magistrate's camp at

Subdhee; 20 men should be sent to join Mr. Platts at Meherpore. The remaining should be kept here to accompany Mr. Herschel to whatever part of the District he may be called.

14. Mr. Molony, Mr. Maclean and Mr. Platts should be desired to collect small supplies of live stock, and other necessaries, for provisioning European troops for the time they are likely to be quartered in the District.

15. I return to Alipore on the 1st, to hold the half-yearly examination, and communication should be addressed thither after the 31st.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(No. 1535, dated the 31st March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3, dated the 29th instant, submitting a copy of your Circular to the Officiating Magistrates of Baraset, Nuddea, and Jessore, on the subject of carrying out the provisions of the new Bill for enforcing the fulfilment of Indigo contracts, and in reply to infom you that the arrangements which you have prescribed appear very judicious, and are entirely approved by the Lieutenant Governor.

THE 31ST MARCH 1860.

THE following Bill, as read a third time this day, is published for general information:—

A Bill to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo Contracts, and to provide for the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to issue a commission of enquiry into the practice of Indigo planting in Bengal and the relations between the Indigo Planter and the Ryots and holders of land in Bengal, and to make temporary provision for enforcing by summary process the execution of agreements entered into for the cultivation of Indigo plant; and better to provide

for the punishment of certain unlawful acts connected with such cultivation; It is enacted as follows:—

Magistrate may on complaint, issue summons for appearance of a person who has received a cash advance and delays or neglects to fulfil his agreement.

I. If any person who has received a cash advance upon his agreement to cultivate Indigo plant during the season now current, shall wilfully delay or omit from and after the 4th day of April 1860 to cultivate according to the conditions of such agreement the whole quantity of land which he has agreed to cultivate, or otherwise to fulfil his engagement, it shall be competent to the Magistrate to entertain a complaint made to the above effect on oath by the Planter who has made the advance, or by any person on his behalf, and to summon the person complained of to appear before him in order to the investigation of the complaint preferred. If the Magistrate has reason to believe that the person complained of will not appear in obedience to the summons, he may issue a warrant for the arrest of such person.

Remedy.

II. On hearing the answer of the person camplained of, and on taking such evidence as both parties may adduce, if the complaint be established to the satisfaction of the Magistrate, the Magistrate shall assess a certain sum as damages sustained by reason of the breach of the contract. If it shall appear to the Magistrate that the person who has agreed to cultivate the Indigo plant is still able to perform his contract, the Magistrate shall order him specifically to perform the same, and shall also in such case award a certain sum to be paid as damages as an alternative. In cases in which the land to be cultivated with the Indigo plant is defined by the agreement, the Magistrate may order the attachment, as a security for the amount of the damages assessed or to be assessed for the breach of the agreement, of any other crop of the defaulter that may at any time during the present season be growing on such land. If after an order for specific performance of agreement the defendant fail to perform the agreement or to pay the amount of damages ordered to be paid as an alternative, or if after an order for payment of damages the same be not immediately paid, the Magistrate may order the defendant to be imprisoned in the Civil Jail for a term not exceeding three months; and may on the motion of the complainant furthermore proceed to levy the damages assessed from the property of the defendant, in the mode provided for enforcing decrees of Court

under Act VIII of 1859 *(for simplifying the Procedure of the Courts of Civil Judicature not established by Royal Charter)*. Provided that if the amount of the said damages is paid or levied within the aforesaid term of three months, the defendant shall be released from Jail on that amount being paid or levied.

Proviso.

III In case it shall appear to the satisfaction of the Magistrate that the agreement has been obtained by means of fraud, force, or unlawful intimidation, the complaint shall be dismissed.

If agreement obtained by force or intimidation, complaint to be dismissed.

IV. If any complaint preferred under this Act be dismissed for want of proof or appearance of the complainant, or for any other cause, the Magistrate may order the complainant to pay such amount for costs and compensation as he may think reasonable. In default of payment of any such amount, the same may be levied by distress and sale of the property of the person ordered to pay the same.

In what cases Magistrate may levy costs and compensation from complainant.

V. If any person from and after the 4th day of April 1860, shall by violence, threats, or otherwise intimidate or attempt to intimidate any other person who shall have entered into any such agreement as aforesaid, with the intention of inducing such person to break the conditions thereof, he shall, on conviction before the Magistrate, be liable to a sentence of imprisonment with or without labor for a period not exceeding six months, or to a fine not exceeding two hundred Rupees, or to both, such fine being commutable, if not paid, to a further period of imprisonment not exceeding six months.

Penalty for intimidation &c.

VI. If any person shall maliciously destroy or damage, or if any person shall maliciously command, compel, or persuade any other person to destroy or damage any growing crop of Indigo, he shall, on conviction before a Magistrate, be liable to be sentenced to imprisonment with or without labor for a period not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding two hundred Rupees, or to both, such fine being commutable, if not paid to a further period of imprisonment not exceeding six months.

Penalty for destroying or damaging crops.

No Appeal.

VII. No appeal shall lie from the decision of a Magistrate under this Act.

Jurisdiction.

VIII. The power of a Magistrate under this Act may be exercised by any person vested with the full powers of a Magistrate, and by any Assistant Magistrate or Deputy Magistrate specially empowered on that behalf by the local Government.

Effect of decision of Magistrate under this Act.

IX. A decision of a Magistrate shall be a bar to any further proceeding for the same breach of agreement. No decision under this Act shall have any force or effect in regard to anything not to be performed during the current season.

Duration and territorial scope of Act.

X. This Act shall have effect from and after the 4th day of April 1860, and shall not extend beyond the Territories subject to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. And no complaint or prosecution shall be entertained under this Act, unless preferred within six months from the date aforesaid

Limitation of action.

Certain post orders declared valid.

XI. All orders made or acts done before the 4th day of April 1860, which would have been lawful if the Bill "to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo Contracts," as read a second time on the 24th day of March 1860 had then become law, are hereby declared to be valid. And all Magistrates and other Public Officers are hereby indemnified for any acts done before the said 4th day of April 1860, which would have been justifiable under the said Bill if the same had become law on the said 24th day of March 1860.

Indemnity.

Appointment of Commission of enquiry.

XII. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal shall, as soon as conveniently may be, issue a Commission to such persons as the said Lieutenant-Governor shall think fit, for the purpose of enquiring into and reporting on the system and practice of Indigo planting in Bengal and the relations between the Indigo Planter and the Ryots and holders of land in Bengal aforesaid. The said Commissioners shall fully enquire into the matters aforesaid, and shall as soon as they conveniently can, report to the Lieutenant-Governor the result of their enquiries, and shall in their report or reports suggest such alterations, if any, as may

in their opinion be beneficially made in the law relating to the system and practice and the relations aforesaid

Death or resignation of any of the Commissioners.

XIII. In case of the death or resignation of any of the said Commissioners, or of any of them becoming unable or refusing to act, it shall be lawful for the other Commissioners or Commissioner to act alone, and all the powers by this Act given to Commissioners shall and may be exercised by the continuing Commissioners or Commissioner alone, but only until such vacancy can be filled up. It shall be lawful for the said Lieutenant-Governor from time to time, and he shall as soon as conveniently may be, without issuing a new Commission appoint some other person or persons to act as a Commissioner or Commissioners jointly with the continuing Commissioners or Commissioner, and in such case all the powers conferred by this Act shall and may be exercised by the said newly appointed Commissioner or Commissioners jointly with the continuing Commissioner or Commissioners.

Attendence of witnesses.

XIV. It shall be lawful for the Commissioners aforesaid, by a summons under the hand of any one of them, to require the attendance before them, at a time and place to be mentioned in such summons, of any person or persons whomsoever, residing or being within the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, whose evidence shall in the judgment of the Commissioners aforesaid be material to any of the matters of the enquiry aforesaid, and to require the person or persons so summoned to bring and produce before them all such books, papers, deeds, and writings as to them the said Commissioners shall appear necessary for arriving at the truth of the matters directed to be enquired into by the said Commissioners, all which persons shall accordingly attend before the said Commissioners, and shall produce such books, papers, deeds, and writings as shall be required of them and shall be in their custody and control or

Proviso.

in the custody and control of any one of them according to the tenor of the summons. Provided always that no person shall be compelled to attend before the said Commissioners or to give his evidence at a greater distance than fifty miles from the place where such person shall be residing.

Examination of witnesses on oath or affirmation.

XV. It shall be lawful for the Commissioners aforesaid, or one of them, to administer an oath, or in the case of persons allowed by law to make affirmation instead of taking an oath, an

affirmation in such form as to them the said Commissioner shall seem fit, to all persons who shall be examined before them touching the matters to be enquired into by them as aforesaid.

Proviso.

Provided that nothing herein contained shall render it necessary for the said Commissioners to take evidence upon oath or affirmation unless they shall think fit or expedient so to do.

XVI. If any person, upon whom any such summons shall be served by the delivery thereof to him or by the leaving thereof at his usual place of abode, being a person living within fifty miles of the place at which he shall be required to attend, without reasonable cause (to be allowed by the Commissioners aforesaid) fail to appear before them at the time and place mentioned in the summons, or shall refuse to be sworn or to make affirmation (as the case may be) or shall not make answer to such questions as shall be put to him touching the matters directed or which may hereafter be directed, to be enquired into by the Commissioners aforesaid, or shall refuse or fail without reasonable cause (to be allowed by the Commissioners aforesaid to produce and show to the said Commissioners any such paper, book, deed, or writing being in his possession or under his control as to the Commissioners aforesaid shall appear necessary for arriving at the truth of the matters to be enquired into by them, the Commissioners aforesaid, shall have the same powers in all respects touching any such person so failing to appear or refusing to be sworn or to make affirmation, or not answering such questions as shall be put to him or refusing to produce and show any such book, paper, deed, or writing as aforesaid, as the principal Court of original Civil jurisdiction within the limits of which the said person shall be residing, may by law exercise against any person for making default of appearance, or for refusing to be sworn or to give evidence on any issue joined in any action pending in such Court.

Witnesses neglecting to attend &c.

XVII. Wenever a summons is issued for the attendance of a witness under this Act, the Commissioners may if they think fit, order such witness to receive from the Collector such travelling and other expences as he would have been entitled to receive had he been summoned to appear and give evidence in the principal Court of original Civil jurisdiction in the District.

Expences of witnesses.

XVIII. Every person who upon examination upon oath or affirmation before the Commissioners aforesaid, shall wilfully give false evidence, shall be liable to the punishment of perjury.

Punishment for false evidence.

M. WYLLE,
Clerk of the Council.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioners of Nuddea and Rajshahye, (dated Fort William, the 4th April 1860.)

SIR,

THE Bill "to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo contracts and to provide for the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry," as read a third time, and passed in the Legislative Council on Saturday last, differs in some respect from that read the first and second time, in regard to which general instructions were conveyed to you in my letters Nos. 1273 and 1290, dated the 27th and 28th ultimo respectively.

2. It is necessary therefore that the state of the Law, as it will now stand when the anticipated assent of His Excellency the Governor General is given to it, so far as it affects the Ryots, should be very carefully explained to them, in the same manner that the provisions of the Bill in its former state were explained to them.

3. The following are the most important changes made:—

4. The summary and exceptional process available by this Law may be applied to the whole matter of any agreement to cultivate Indigo during the present season, for which any advance in cash has been received, instead of being restricted to so much of it as was made in consideration of the advance in cash; and there is no maximum to which the damages assessable by the Magistrate are restricted in proportion to the amount of cash advance received. Moreover the Magistrate may now decree specific performance: he may decree costs and compensation against a complainant failing to prove his case: and his decision bars all further proceedings in the matter of the contract in question. The provision that there shall be no appeal from the Magistrate's order remains as it was before it was proposed to give him these extended powers. These changes add materially to the responsibilities of the Officers vested with Magisterial powers under the Act; and they make it more then ever impera-

tive on those Officers to give their utmost attention to the equitable principles it will fall to them to apply, and to the careful ascertainment of the facts whenever there may be any dispute of facts regarding the nature as well as regarding the existence of an agreement such as is provided for. On this point, I am directed to request that attention may again be directed to the remark made in paragraph 4 of my letter of the 28th ultimo, No. 1290.

5. The special provison in Section III. of the Act will point the Magistrate's attention to the general principle, that fraud and force and unlawful intimidation vitiate agreements.

6. As the Legislature allows no appeal from the decisions of Officers vested with powers under this Act, it becomes doubly incumbent on Commissioners to keep themselves constantly informed of the manner in which these Officers discharge the very difficult and responsible duty now imposed upon them, and of the principles by which they are guided in their decisions. These powers, and the opportunity of acting upon them, must not be retained for a day in the hands of any Officer who may show himself not competent to exercise them in such a manner as to do full and substantial justice to all parties.

7. The Act will have effect from this date; but under Section XI. public Officers are indemnified from any acts done before the 4th instant, which would have been justifiable under the Bill as read on the 24th ultimo.

8. One hundred copies of the Act in Bengallee are herewith forwarded to you, and should be circulated.

From Baboo Issur Chunder Singh, Honorary Secretary British Indian Association, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(dated the 22nd March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed by the Committee of the British Indian Association to request the favor of your laying before His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, for his consideration and orders, the accompanying Petition of the Committee, praying for a Commission of Inquiry into the cultivation of Indigo in Lower Bengal.

To the Hon'ble J. P. Grant, Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.

The humble petition of the British Indian Association.

Showeth,

That your Petitioners have viewed with much concern the contest which has sprung up within the last few months between the Ryots and Planters, engaged in the cultivation and manufacture of Indigo in Kishnaghur and other Districts in Lower Bengal.

The contest has within the last few weeks assumed a serious aspect, and things have approached to a crisis which is much to be lamented, though your Petitioners have good reasons to believe that the accounts published in the newspapers are greatly exaggerated, and they have not been surprised to perceive such to be the case from the report of the Commissioner of the Nuddea Division.

Your Petitioners cannot view the contest in any other light than as a natural struggle between labor and capital, and as such, its settlement, they are of opinion, ought to be left to the operation of economical Laws uninterfered with by the Government or Legislature on any side.

But circumstances have arisen, your Petitioners regret to state, which call for the interference of the Authorities. Both parties have appealed to the Government for intercession and aid, and both are loud in declaring the truth and justice to be on their side. Further, it has been declared on behalf of Indigo Planters, that inaction on the part of

Government may lead them " to take the Law into their own hands" and it has even been circumstantially stated that " Planters (at Kishnaghur) are engaging Sailors in Calcutta as a preliminary measure against such a contingency. As a confirmation to the above, your Petitioners observe certain Indigo Planters of Kishnaghur stating in an official letter of theirs to the Secretary to their Association at Calcutta, that failing attention from Government, " we must endeavour to do what is best for ourselves." This, if true, indicates a state of things fraught with danger to the peace of the District, and requires in the judgment of your Petitioners the prompt attention of Government.

Your Petitioners do not pretend to judge between the two contending parties, and emphatically disavow hostility to either. They however feel persuaded that the question is surrounded by such difficulties, by reason of the strong personal interests involved in it of both the parties, that without a public and efficient inquiry it will be hopeless, your Petitioners believe, for Government as well as the public at large to arrive at a correct and impartial solution in regard to it.

There are two subjects connected with the cultivation of Indigo, which your Petitioners think above all others particularly call for this inquiry. Your Honor is aware that among other things the loudest complaints have been made by the Ryots, whether with justice or not your Petitioners do not feel competent to decide, against the low rates of remuneration, compared to other articles of cultivation, of Rice given for the cultivation of the Indigo plant, and the system of advances in vogue in the Indigo Factories of Lower Bengal.

In 1856, your Petitioners, in common with the estimable and philanthropic body of Protestant Missionaries of Bengal, prayed of the Government for a Commission of Inquiry of the kind referred to above. In the present prayer, however, they feel it a particular pleasure to be able to state that they have the concurrence of the European Planters immediately interested in the cultivation of Indigo, who in their recent petition to your Honor have openly " courted the fullest inquiries."

A Commission of Inquiry of the kind prayed for has long been desiderated. Whether as regards the interests of the Planters or those of the Ryots, a searching, patient, and unbiassed inquiry has been held to be the only means by which a true solution of this intricate and important question can be discovered, and the real character of the facts

so vehemently disputed on both sides established. It is believed to be the sole means which will above all settle the position of the Ryot, who has been unceasing in his complaints, and clear up the future of British enterprise in the Interior ; the fusion of which with Native capital and industry is justly considered to be the main security for the progress of the country in material prosperity.

Your Petitioners have observed with regret that it has been recommended to your Honor to bring "special legislation" to bear upon British enterprise in the Mofussil by way of encouragement. Much as your Petitioners value British enterprise in India; much as they hope for the introduction of British capital, energy, and skill into this land as the pioneer of progress; much as they look to European science and its application for the development of the inexhaustible resources of this country, they would reckon it as humiliating as discreditable to British settlers, and unfortunate for the people, if those excellent advantages, which cannot be undervalued without gross positive injustice, could not be obtained without the aid of "special legislation."

Your Petitioners would therefore pray that your Honor may be pleased to consider the propriety of issuing a Commission of Inquiry, consisting of such a number of persons as your Honor may deem fit, into the cultivation of Indigo in Lower Bengal, with special reference to the rates of remuneration and the system of advances connected therewith.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Honorary Secretary to the British Indian Association,—(No. 1540, dated the 5th April 1860).

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, I am directed to refer you to the Act "to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo contracts

and to provide for the appointment of a Commisson of Inquiry," which was passed by the Legislative Council on Saturday last.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Officiating Secretary to the Indigo Planters' Association,—(No. 1539, dated the 5th April 1860.)

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter to your address of the 22nd ultimo, I am directed to refer you to the Act "to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo contracts, and to provide for the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry," which was passed by the Legislative Council on Saturday last, which the Lieutenant-Governor trusts will meet the objects of the Association.

From A. FORBES, ESQ., Officiating Secretary, Indigo Planters' Association, to A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(dated Calcutta, 10th April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1539, dated the 5th instant.

I am directed by the Central Committee of the Indigo Planters' Association to express their thanks for the Law to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo contracts, and to state that they hail with much satisfaction the provision made in that Act for the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry into the relations between Indigo Planters and the cultivators of the soil, and to express a hope, on the part of the Association, that the appointment of the Commission shall not be long delayed. If the Commission commence its inquiries immediately after the present sowing season, it is to be hoped that its labors might be completed before October next, when the sowings and arrangements for the next season must commence. Enough would be then known at least to set at rest the question whether Indigo Planting, as conducted at present, is to be permitted by Law to continue, or whether the Government intends to interfere to any considerable extent between the Planter and the cultivator, and arrangements might be made, modified according to the extent of such interference, for the cultivation of Indigo for the next season.

From A GROTE, Esq, Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 98Ct., dated Alipore, the 16th April 1860)

SIR,

I BEG to lay before Government an original reference from the Magistrate of Nuddea, dated 13th instant, with its enclosures. As I had previously sent to the Legal Remembrancer for copies of the Jessore Magistrate's letter, I beg to append it also and its enclosures.

2. Not concurring in Mr. Beaufort's view of the Law, I had drawn up the accompanying note which I had intended to submit for the approval of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor.

3. It will be seen that I support generally Mr. Herschel's opinion; and if I remember rightly, what was said by the Right Hon'ble James Wilson, when he moved the amendment of the 2nd Section of the Bill, on a construction of the Law, is that which was intended to be put on it.

4. I request the return of the original enclosures.

From W. J. HERSCHEL, Esq, Officiating Magistrate of Nuddea, to the Commissioner of Circuit, Nuddea Division,—(No. 101Ct. dated Nuddea, the 13th April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to enclose copy of a letter received from the Legal Remembrancer on a reference made to him by the Magistrate of Jessore and myself, putting certain questions to him as to the meaning of the new Indigo Bill.

2. I have no copy of the letter that went to him nor of the questions put. But I think I am stating them fairly thus.

Question 1.—A Ryot having taken cash advance upon agreement to cultivate for a specific number of years including the current season, does the wording of the Law admit of the case being adjudicated by the Magistrate?

On this we agreed, that the Law applied to such a case.

Question 2.—A Ryot having taken advance in some former year to sow Indigo, but without fixing any specific limit to the number of years for which the agreement was to hold, can the Magistrate order him to

sow this year on any ground but one, viz., that by receipt of a cash advance this season the Ryot has confirmed the contract?

It appeared to me that he could not. The Magistrate of Jessore considered (as I understand him) that any act of the Ryots which proved his consent to the continuance of the contract gave force to the Law against him provided he received cash originally.

3. As in a meeting of six Magisterial Officers we were equally divided in this point, we decided on referring the matter to the Legal Remembrancer for his opinion.

4. His reply has been received, but it appears to me so difficult of adoption that I must beg for a more distinct statement of the meaning of the Law from higher authority.

5. I know not whether it is quite proper of me to put forward arguments opposed to the view of the Legal Remembrancer, but as concisely as may be, I venture to state the grounds on which I adopted my own view, and to shew why I still think them intact.

6. The terms of the Law are—If any Ryot "has received a cash advance upon his agreement to cultivate Indigo plant during the season now current" the Magistrate *shall*, if it be still feasible, order him to sow and shall fix an equitable sum as damages for failing to comply with the order.

7. It appears to me that the Magistrate has no option on the case thus put to decline giving the order to sow.

His functions as Judge in equity commence when he assesses the penalty for a refusal to comply with the order. If the Ryot agreed to sow this year, and took cash advance on that agreement, an order to sow must follow. The order may be a harsh one (as in the case put by the Legal Remembrancer of a ten years' agreement on conditions obviously unprofitable to the Ryot) but the penalty in such a case is at the Magistrate's discretion.

8. The case of a ten years' agreement is herein precisely similar to that of an agreement for this year only. The order to sow must issue on an agreement clenched by cash. It may be as harsh an order as in the other case. But the penalty for refusal depends on the equitable nature of the contract.

9. But the Legal Remembrancer proceeding on the principles of Civil Law and putting out of sight the criminal and exceptional nature of the present Law, argues that in the case of a ten years' agreement,

unprofitable to the Ryot, no order to sow should issue unless the Planter can prove that he has given other advantages which supply the place of the customary renewed advance.

10. This argument, it seems to me, tends to assimilate the case of an agreement for a specific term with that of an agreement unlimited in time. It tends, by denying the literal interpretation of the law in the former case where it reads in favour of one of the parties, to admit of a liberal interpretation of it in his favour in the latter where it reads against him. It makes the entire question one of pure equity in both cases.

Yet I confess I cannot see how a specific contract to sow during a specific term, which includes this particular season, and which was clenched by cash when made, can be put out of the pale of the Law, nor how a contract which does not specify this particular season can be brought within it. If the latter have been renewed by any means, specially with regard to this season, it becomes a new contract to sow this season, and it only remains for the Magistrate in compliance with the terms of the law to call for proof that a cash advance was given (not upon some previous, but) *upon* this recent agreement.

11. The Legal Remembrancer ends his letter by saying—

"But if the agreement had reference only to last season, it would not, I apprehend, be held valid in the current season without an express renewal by the parties concerned."

What is an express renewal? It appears to me that the terms of the Law are inflexibly accurate. The receipt of cash advance is the only expression to which we criminal authorities are allowed to listen.

12. In adopting and adhering to this view, it is quite possible that some cases of injustice to the Planter may occur, such as that of a Ryot, having altogether evaded his contract last season. He probably ought to sow this year. But while the words of the Law continue as at present, I cannot, turn it as I may, consider myself responsible for such injustice.

From E. W. Molony, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Jessore, to the Superintendent of Legal Affairs, Fort William,—(Dated Damoorhooda, 7th April 1860.)

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the enclosed Memoranda of the construction placed upon the Indigo Bill, by the Officers (as per margin,) who have severally signed them and shall be much obliged by your favoring us with your opinion as to which is the correct view.

Mr. E. W. Molony, Offg. Magistrate of Jessore.
Mr. W. J. Herschel, Offg. Magistrate of Nuddea.
Mr. C. B. Skinner. Joint Magistrate.
Mr M. G. Taylor, Joint Magistrate.
Mr. A. T. Maclean, Joint Magistrate.
Mr. C. G. D. Betts, Deputy Magistrate.

2. I have been requested to refer this question as it is very desirable that the same construction may be placed on the Law by all Officers concerned in the administration thereof.

3. Be pleased to favor me with your opinion as early as possible, sending a copy of the same to the address of the Officiating Magistrate of Nuddea.

4. Please to address an answer to me, Damoorhooda, *via.*, Nischindipore.

Memo.

1st. I hold, that the terms of the law admit of a Magistrate's taking up a case under the Indigo Bill, no matter in what year the cash advance was made, provided the agreement was for a specified and limited number of years and included the present season.

2nd. I hold that a Ryot having received cash advance last year without having fixed any term to the continuance of the contract, or expressly or impliedly agreed with reference to such advance to cultivate this year, cannot be ordered to sow this year unless by the receipt of a second cash advance this season he has confirmed and continued the contract.

W. J. Herschel,
Officiating Magistrate.

I agree with the above opinion.

G. Taylor,
Assistant Magistrate.

As I am of opinion that to make me to receive a case under the Law cash must have been received this season, I disagree with the first of the above minutes.

(Signed) A. T. MACLEAN.

I agree with Mr. Herschel in the view he has taken of the Indigo Law being applicable to unexpired agreements to cultivate Indigo for a specified term of years *whenever* the advance may have been made.

I am also of opinion that it will apply to cases in which the evidence shows the agreement was intended to extend to the present season though no term is specified where there may have originally been a cash advance not *paid* off, and where the Ryots may have by any act admitted that the agreement is still in force even though no fresh cash advance may have been made to him this season.

E. W. MOLONY.

I agree entirely with Mr. Molony's view.

C. B. SKINNER.

I agree with Mr. Molony's constructions of the Bill.

A. G. D. BETTS.

From F. BEAUFORT, Esq., Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, to the Officiating Magistrate of Jessore,—(No. 524, Fort William, dated the 10th April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, regarding the bill to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo

contracts which was read a third time in the Legislative Council on the 31st ultimo.

2. Under Sections 1 and 9 of the bill you require an agreement to cultivate Indigo plant during the season now current, and a cash advance made upon that agreement. On these conditions you have jurisdiction. But if the terms of the agreement do not embrace the current season, or if no cash advance has been made on that agreement, you cannot interfere.

3. There is nothing in the bill which requires that the agreement should specify a limited number of years, and therefore I think that Mr. Herschel is in error when he makes it essential that the agreement should be for a specified and limited number of years. But doubtless some consideration of the time involved is requisite. The law is professedly temporary; and a summary power has been given to you for a specified purpose. In the exercise of that power you are bound by Section 3 to regard the considerations of equity; and where the agreement does not involve fair reciprocal obligation, as judged by local custom, it should not be enforced, although the bare terms of the law are strictly applicable to it. Consequently, if the agreement stipulates for the cultivation of land for a long period of years, or in perpetuity, without a cash advance, which can equitably be presumed to have afforded advantage to the Ryot during the current season, I am of opinion that it ought not to be enforced. As for instance, I would not apply the law to the possible case of a Ryot contracting to cultivate ten beegahs with Indigo for ten years on one advance of twenty Rupees, which has not been renewed, unless the Planter could show that the Ryot had received corresponding benefits in some other way, which would supply the place of the customary renewed advance. In the case of agreements not renewed for the current season, I think that you should see whether the advances, either made in cash or brought forward in the account, have been marked off or not and that no contract should be enforced in the fulfilment of which the Ryot has discharged the obligations represented by the advances. And in this view, you will observe, it is not required that the agreement should specify a fixed number of years.

4. On the second point to which your letter refers, I observe that

nothing is said in the law about an advance made in the current season and consequently that Mr. Herschel's construction of it is, as it seems to me incorrect; you cannot I think restrict the administration of the law to those cases in which the actual fact of payments in the current year is proved, to the exclusion of cases in which the contract regards the cultivation of the current season, and in which an advance has been made on that contract. In the enforcement of the law for this season regard ought to be had specially to the custom which has held in the Concern; and that will usually shew whether the contract, on which an advance was made in a previous year, is applicable to the current season. It is easy to conceive cases in which the Ryot could not have fairly asked for renewed advance this season, as for instance where he evaded the obligation of last year and consented instead to hold the agreement good for the current season. But if the agreement had reference only to last season, it would not, I apprehend, be held valid in the current season without an express renewal by the parties concerned.

COPY forwarded to Magistrate of Nuddea for his information, at the request of the Magistrate of Jessore.

NOTE BY COMMISSIONER.

1. There must be in the first place an agreement to cultivate plant during the season now current. The contract may be a written and producible one, in which case if proved to be genuine and to have been fairly entered into, the Magistrate will have jurisdiction on finding that a cash advance was made at the time of its execution, and that the Ryot is still bound by its conditions to supply plant.

2. If the contract when produced does not show conclusively that its conditions are binding on the Ryot for the current year, the Planter must show that its conditions have become so binding by the acceptance on the Ryot's part of a further advance this year.

3. If the contract be not a written and producible one, and the Ryots defy that any such has ever been made for the season now current, then the Planter must prove that the oral agreement has been actually made or has been understood to be made by the Ryots' acceptance of a cash payment for the current year.

A. Mr. Forlong sues on a 7 years' term agreement which he produces. His books show that there are 3 years yet to run, and that an advance was made to defendant at the time of execution, Magistrate may order specific performance.

Illustrations.

B. In another case he files an agreement which contains no specific term and leaves the question doubtful as to whether it was intended to bind the Ryot beyond the year in which it was entered into and in which the advance was made. Defendant admits that he received advance on it and that he is in balance to the factory, but denies that it binds him for this year. The question raised here is beyond the jurisdiction of the Special Court.

A. GROTE, *Commissioner.*

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Advocate General,—(No. 1809, dated 19th April 1860.)

SIR,

I am directed to forward to you the accompanying communication in original from the Commissioner of Nuddea on the subject of the Bill to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo contracts, and to request that you will have the goodness to favor the Lieutenant-Governor with a legal opinion thereon, such as may be circulated amongst the officers employed in carrying out the provisions of the Bill for their guidance.

No. 98Ct. of 16 Inst. with 3 encls.

2. The return of the original papers with your reply is requested.

From W. RITCHIE, ESQ., Advocate General to A. R. YOUNG, ESQ. Secretary to the Government of Bengal.—(Calcutta, 21st April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1809, dated the 19th Instant, and in reply to forward the accompanying opinion upon the points therein referred to.

I return the original enclosures.

OPINION.

IN order to give the Magistrate jurisdiction under Act No. XI. of 1860, there must be proved an agreement to cultivate Indigo plant during the present season; and an advance in cash upon that agreement. But I am of opinion that it is immaterial for the purpose of giving juris-

diction, when the agreement was entered into:—or whether it is one applicable to the present season only, or to several seasons; or whether it is proposed to establish it by a written instrument, expressly extending to the cultivation of the present season, or by a written instrument expressly extending to a past season only, coupled with proof of a renewal of such agreement on the same or varied terms for the present season; or by purely oral testimony. And so as to the advances; I think that for the purpose of giving jurisdiction, it is immaterial when the advance was made; or whether it was part of the original agreement that it should be made or not, provided the cash was paid upon the footing of, and with reference to an agreement (written or verbal express or to be implied from the acts of the parties or the usual custom in the District or all the circumstances of the case) that plant should be cultivated during the present season.

2. The advances referred to in the accompanying papers may apparently be ranged under three heads:—

1*st.* Advances made expressly for the present season.

As to these no question can arise, as they clearly bring the case within the jurisdiction of the Magistrate.

2*nd.* Advances made during a previous season, but upon entering into an agreement to cultivate, extending to the present season, and made generally in respect of the entire agreement or expressly in respect of certain seasons including the present one.

Here also the Magistrate will have jurisdiction, and his jurisdiction will not be taken away by the circumstance that the advances thus made generally upon the agreement have just been worked out by the Ryot so as to leave him nothing in hand applicable to the present season after paying himself in full for the last season.

3*rd.* Advances made during a previous season, but after the agreement was entered into, and not made in respect of the agreement generally, or of the cultivation of the present season, but expressly on account of the cultivation of the season in which they were made.

Here, unless a fresh advance has been made for this season, there will be no jurisdiction, even though the advance for the prior seasons have not been worked out, and a balance remains in the Ryot's hand.

3. It is, of course, impossible to lay down any rule beforehand which shall be exactly applicable to the great variety of cases that may arise under the Act. But the principles above stated may, I think, be taken as the tests by which the Magistrate should ascertain whether a case does

or not fall within the Act; and the following illustrations may further serve to show how they may be applied:—

Case 1.—An agreement is entered into in 1859 to cultivate Indigo for two seasons, *viz.* 1859 and 1860. A cash advance is paid at the time, generally on account of the entire agreement. Whether such cash advance has been worked off in the season 1859 or not, the Magistrate has jurisdiction.

Case 2.—Upon a similar agreement, no cash is paid at the time. But a month afterwards the Ryot asks for and receives an advance specifically for the season 1859, without any reference to any subsequent season; whether such advance has been worked off or not, the Magistrate has no jurisdiction unless some further advance has been made.

Case 3.—Upon a similar agreement, no cash has been paid at the time. But a month afterwards the Ryot asks for and receives an advance generally for the purposes of cultivating under the agreement, or specifically for the season of 1859, but with a promise though a verbal one, that if any balance remains over the surplus shall be applied to the season 1860. Whether the advance of 1859 has been worked out or not the Magistrate will have jurisdiction.

Case 4.—A Ryot takes advance in a former year to cultivate Indigo without fixing any specific limit to the number of years for which the agreement is to hold. He afterwards expressly though verbally agrees to cultivate for the present season but receives no further cash advance.

This is the second case put by Mr. Herschel in his letter of 13th instant.

Here the Magistrate will *primâ facie* have no jurisdiction, even though the advance for the first year has not been worked out. For *primâ facie* an agreement to cultivate must be deemed to be for the current season only. But if the plaintiff can shew that by the custom of the district or other circumstances, an agreement to cultivate does really extend to a certain number of years which would include the present one, the case must be determined according to the character of the advances as in cases 1 and 2.

Case 5.—In the case put by Mr. Beaufort of a Ryot contracting to cultivate 10 biggahs with Indigo for ten years on one advance of Rupees 20, which had not been renewed, the liability of the Ryot ought not to depend, as Mr. Beaufort suggests, upon the Planter being able to show that the Ryot had received corresponding benefits some other way, supposing there to be a legal consideration to support the agreement as an advance however small will be, and supposing the terms not to be so

one-sided as to lead to the inference of fraud or intimidation (in which case the complaint will be dismissed under Section 2,) the case must turn upon the same question as the other cases 1, 2, and 3, *viz.* whether there was an advance upon the agreement for the present season. If the advance was general, or was by an express agreement made applicable to the present season, the Magistrate would have jurisdiction in the case. Whereas if the advance was made subsequently to the agreement and was specially limited to the agreement to cultivate for the first year, or any year before the present one he would not have such jurisdiction.

I quite concur in the remarks made in Mr. Herschel's letter of the 13th instant, paragraphs 6 to 10, upon this part of Mr. Beaufort's letter paragraph 3.

CASE 6.—An advance is proved to have been made in cash specially for the cultivation of a former season.

The Planter makes no fresh advance for the present season but makes a remission of an old debt, or an allowance of rents in accounts in lieu of a cash advance to the present season.

Assuming the past advance not to be applicable to the present season the subsequent remission, allowance in accounts or set off will not constitute a cash advance so as to give jurisdiction under the Act.

4. With respect to Mr. Herschel's Memorandum, I think that in his first paragraph *(1) the restriction as to the agreement being for a specified and limited number of years is too strict and should be omitted. And that in paragraph 2, after the words "a Ryot having received cash advance last year without having fixed any term to the continuance of the contract" the words "or expressly or impliedly agreed with reference to such advance to cultivate this year" †(2) should be inserted.

In Mr. Molony's Memorandum, paragraph 2, I think that after the words ‡(3)

*(1.) "I hold that the terms of the law admit of a Magistrate's taking up a case under the Indigo Bill, no matter in what year the cash advance was made, provided the agreement included the present season"

†(2.) I hold that a Ryot having received cash advance last year without having fixed any term to the continuance of the contract [*or expressly or impliedly agreed with reference to such advance to cultivate this year,*] cannot be ordered to sow this year unless by the receipt of a second cash advance this season he has confirmed and continued the contract.

‡(3.) I am also of opinion that it will apply to cases in which [*the evidence shows the agreement was intended to extend to the present season, though*] no term is specified where there may have originally been a cash advance, not paid off and where the Ryots may have by any act admitted that the agreement is still in force even though no fresh cash advance may have been made to him this season.

I am also of opinion that it will apply to cases in which the words "the evidence shews the agreement was intended to extend to the present season though no term is specified" should be inserted.

5. I quite agree with Mr. Beaufort in his remarks in paragraphs 2 and 4 of his letter, upon the second point touched in Mr. Herschel's and Mr. Molony's Memorandums.

6. In the second illustration given in Mr. Grote's proposed Circular,* I do not think that the question raised should be said to be beyond the jurisdiction of the Special Court. I think that in such a case the question, being doubtful, would be fully within the jurisdiction of the Magistrate, and would be the question which the Magistrate ought to try. If satisfied on the whole evidence that the Ryot is right in saying that he never agreed to be bound beyond the year, the Magistrate will of course dismiss the case. But if satisfied that the agreement, though verbal, did extend to the present year, the Magistrate should decide the case according to the nature of the evidence, upon the same principles as Cases 1, 2 and 3.

* (B.) In another case the plaintiff files an agreement whiche ontains no specific term and leaves the question doubtful as to whether it was intended to bind the Ryot beyond the year in which it was entered into and in which the advance was made. Defendant admits that he received advance on it, and that he is in balance to the Factory, but denies that it binds him for this year. [The question raised here is beyond the jurisdiction of the Special Court.]

To the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(No. 1883. dated the 23rd April 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to forward to you for distribution, &c.

To the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(No. 1884, dated the 23rd April 1860.)

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter No. 98Ct., dated the 16th instant, the original enclosures of which are herewith returned, I am directed by theLieutenant-Governor to forward to you for distribution amongst the Officers of your Division empowered to carry out the provisions of the Act to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo contracts, twenty-five copies of an opinion by the Advocate General, on certain points connected with the working of that Law.

I have, &c.,

A. R. YOUNG,

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal

No. XXI.

From A. Forbes, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Indigo Planters' Association, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(2, Old Post Office Street, March 1860.)

Sir,

A report has appeared in the *Englishman* of this morning that the Hon'ble Mr. Ashley Eden is about to be re-appointed Magistrate of Baraset, and another report is in circulation that that gentleman is about to be posted to Moorshedabad.

2. The Ryots of both these Districts have manifested a very bad spirit with regard to Indigo cultivation, which prevails largely there.

3. It is believed that the Government of Bengal is doing its utmost to suppress the agitation in these Districts, and I have the honor to observe that, in the opinion of the Central Committee of the Association, the appointment of Mr. Eden to any Indigo District will be attended with the worst consequences, as that gentleman has identified himself in every way, both publicly and privately, with opposition to Indigo cultivation.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Officiating Secretary to the Indigo Planters' Association,—(No. 1115, dated 23rd March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 22nd instant, bringing to notice two contradictory reports regarding the appointment of Mr. Eden.

In reply, I am desired to state for the information of the Association that it so happens that before the receipt of your letter Mr. Eden had been appointed to Cuttack and another gentleman to Moorshedabad. This makes it unnecessary to say more in reply to your communication than that the Lieutenant Governor is bound to affirm that to whatever office Mr. Eden might be appointed, the Lieutenant Governor does not entertain a doubt that Mr. Eden would act with perfect fairness between all men and all classes.

No. XXII.

Petition from the inhabitants in the Districts of Nuddea and Jessore, to the Hon'ble J. P. Grant, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

The humble petition of the undersigned Ryots of sundry villages herein below-named in the districts of Nuddea and Jessore.

Respectfully showeth,

That your petitioners being sorely oppressed by the proceedings of Mr. George Meares and sundry other persons, carrying on the manufacture of Indigo in the above-named Districts, respectfully appeal to your Honor for protection.

2. That your petitioners finding the cultivation of Indigo plant very unprofitable, in fact ruinously unprofitable to them, have refused to enter into contracts to cultivate the plant, and therefore the manufacturers have in various ways proceeded to oppress them with a view to force them to enter into such contracts.

3. That your petitioners having petitioned the Joint Magistrate of Zillah Jessore, Mr. Skinner, the latter functionary told them that they must sow Indigo seed, and in order to coerce them into a compliance with his orders, ordered forty-nine of their fellow villagers into confinement for short periods on the pretence that they had been guilty of contempt of Court.

4. That these proceedings of the Joint Magistrate of Jessore have thrown your petitioners into consternation, and they know not how to avail themselves of the benefit of your Honor's late Proclamation when they find the district Authorities so openly inclined to set its provisions at naught.

5. That the Joint Magistrate is a frequent visitor at the factories of Mr. George Meares, and issues many of his orders from there.

6. That Mr. George Meares has thus opportunities to operate upon the

convictions of the Magistrate in a manner prejudicial to the interests of justice and prejudicial to your petitioners.

7. That Mr. George Meares has, as your petitioners understand, advanced sundry charges against them in a letter or report addressed to your Honor. These charges, your petitioners beg leave distinctly to state, are utterly groundless; your petitioners have not been guilty of any the slightest breach of the peace, their sole aim being to avoid being made to enter into contracts which are likely to prove heavy losses to them.

8. Wherefore your petitioners pray that your Honor will be pleased to warn Mr. Skinner against acting otherwise than in the spirit of your Honor's Proclamation, and generally in a fair and impartial spirit.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

No. 1289.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in the Judicial Department, under date the 28th of March 1860.

Read a petition from Ushruff Mundul, Mochee Mundul, Obedul Mundul and others, Ryots of certain villages in the Districts of Nuddea and Jessore, complaining against the proceedings of Mr. George Mears and other persons engaged in the cultivation and manufacture of Indigo.

The petitioners represent that having refused, on account of the unprofitableness of the business, to enter into contracts to cultivate Indigo, they have been in various ways oppressed by Mr. Meares and other Indigo Planters with a view to force them to enter into such contracts against their will; and that having laid their grievances before the Officiating Joint Magistrate of Jessore, Mr. C. B. Skinner, they have not only failed to obtain any redress from that Officer, but that they have been told by him "that they must sow Indigo," and that forty-nine of their fellow villagers have been imprisoned by him, for the ostensible offence of contempt of Court, but really in order to coerce them into compliance with the orders passed by him in favor of the Planters. They assert also that between the Officiating Joint Magistrate

and Mr. Mears a degree of intimacy exists which is extremely prejudicial to the interests of justice in any case in which Mr. Meares may be a party.

Ordered, that the Petitioners be informed that if it is really true that any one has oppressed them with a view to force them to enter into contracts, they have only to complain to the Magistrate, bringing forward evidence in support of their allegations, or to file actions against the wrong-doer in the Moonsiff's Court, or simultaneously to adopt both courses. But that if they commit any riot, or breach of the peace, they will surely be punished.

As regards the injustice which the Petitioners have imputed to the Officiating Joint Magistrate in dealing with their case, they are informed that Mr. Skinner has been called upon to submit a report upon the subject for the Lieutenant-Governor's consideration.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(No. 1290, dated the 28th March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a petition presented by Ushruff Mundul and other Ryots of certain villages in the District of Nuddea and Jessore, complaining of the oppression practised upon them by Mr. Mears and other Indigo Planters, and against the proceedings of Mr. C. B. Skinner, the Officiating Joint Magistrate of Jessore.

2. The Petitioners have been informed, that if it is really true that any one has oppressed them with a view to force them to enter into contracts, they have only to complain to the Magistrate, bringing forward evidence in support of their allegations, or to file actions against the wrong-doer in the Moonsiff's Court, or simultaneously to adopt both courses. And they have at the same time been warned that if they commit any riot, or breach of the peace, they will surely be punished.

3. The Lieutenant Governor desires that you will direct the Magistrate to take all possible pains to impress the same thing on these

Petitioners, and on all other Ryots who may make general complaints of oppression in order to induce them to contract to grow Indigo.

4. It is beyond all necessary to be extremely careful in the execution of the new Law, and in all proceedings connected with Indigo cultivation not to confound Ryots who have not contracted and taken cash advances for the current season with those who have ; and when the question of fact is raised, to spare no pains, in the truest spirit of equity between both parties, to get at the real truth. You are desired studiously to impress this principle on all the Magistrates subordinate to you.

5. With reference to the Petitioners' complaints against the Officiating Joint Magistrate of Jessore, you will be so good as to call upon Mr. Skinner to submit, through you, an explanation of the matter alleged regarding him.

No. 1291.

Copy of paras. 2 to 4, forwarded to the Commissioner of Rajshahye for his information.

From A. GROTE, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William.—(No. 94Ct, dated Allipore, the 14th April 1860.)

Sir,

ON receiving your letter, No. 1290, dated 28th Ultimo, with enclosure, I issued the annexed orders to the Magistrates of Nuddea, Jessore, and Barraset, and called for the explanation required from Mr. Skinner.

No. 5, dated 29th Ultimo.

2. This explanation* I now beg to lay before His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, together with copy of Mr. Molony's letter forwarding it. The case of the 49 men alluded to in the petition as having been imprisoned by Mr. Skinner is, as I suspected when I read the passage, that of rescue reported to Government on the 23rd Ultimo.

* In original.

From A. Grote Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Magistrates of Jessore, Nuddea, and Barraset,—(No. 5, Circular, dated Allipore, the 29th March 1860.)

Sir,

The following extract from Government Order No. 1290, dated 28th instant, on a petition presented to the Lieutenant Governor by Achruf Mundul and others, Ryots of certain villages in Nuddea and Jessore are appended for your guidance. The purport of the petition was to complain generally of the oppressions practiced on the Petitioners by Mr. Mears and other Planters and of the proceedings of Mr. Skinner. Paras. 2, 3 and 4.

2. You are requested further to warn villagers that clamorous and disorderly gatherings under the pretext fo petitioning will not be allowed. Everything which they may have to urge will be patiently listened to, but they will be likely to urge far more effectually by entrusting their petition to a few, than by presenting it in a crowd.

3rd. Mr. Skinner is required by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor to furnish an explanation of his proceedings complained of in the petition which is herewith forwarded to you for communication to that Gentleman.

To Jessore only.

From E. W. Moloney, Esq. Officiating Magistrate of Jessore, to the Commissioner of Circuit Nuddea Division, Kishnaghur,—(No. 90, dated Camp Manickdee, the 3rd April 1860.)

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 5, dated the 29th ultimo, forwarding a petition from certain Ryots and calling for an explanation of Mr. Skinner's conduct complained of, I have the honor to forward Mr. Skinner's explanation. The falsity of the allegations in the 7th para. that they are not under contracts to sow Indigo is apparent; many of the villagers having since acknowledged their contracts and their willingness to sow alleging as a reason of their previous denials the intimidation of villagers combined to suppress Indigo cultivation and claiming Police protection from the above villagers to enable them to carry out their engagements. The course adopted by Mr. Skinner to suppress the riot-

ous spirit that was gaining ground has been perfectly successful, and the people in this neighbourhood and indeed all along the Jessore border I think understand the necessity of urging any complaints they may have in an orderly and regular manner.

From C. B. SKINNER, Esq., Officiating Joint Magistrate of Jessore, to the Officiating Magistrate of Jessore,—(No. 69, dated Camp Manickdee, the 3rd April, 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish the following explanation as called for in Government letter No. 1290, dated the 28th ultimo, on petition of Asruff Moudul and others.

1*st*. Petitioners' abodes are not specified I cannot therefore state their individual grievances as set forth in clauses 1 and 2; nor are the names known to me.

Clause 3 is false. The 49 men referred to are those, the attempt to release whom has been reported officially. I did not pass sentence on any, but made over the case (*viz*. of intent to break the peace) to Mr. Molony, Magistrate of Jessore for decision. I have not attempted in any way to intimidate any persons into sowing Indigo, I have not acted contrary to the provisions of the Notification referred to in paras. 4 and 8, which was a fac simile of my own address to the Ryots delivered previously to its receipt. All my proceedings have been duly reported to the Commissioner.

I have not issued a single order from any place save my tent and Baloopole thannah since I came out to these parts. The imputations cast on me in clauses 5 and 6, are false and without foundation.

Clause 7 does not concern me.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(No. 1820, dated the 19th April 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 94, dated the 14th Instant, submitting an explanation from Mr. C. B.

Skinner, Officiating Joint Magistrate of Jessore, in regard to the allegations contained in a Petition from the inhabitants of certain villages in Jessore, that Mr. Skinner when applied to did not afford them redress from the oppressions of the Indigo Planters and that he used coercive measures to force them to sow Indigo.

In reply I am desired to state that the Lieutenant-Governor considers Mr. Skinner's explanation to be quite satisfactory.

No. XXIII.

From A. GROTE, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 14, dated Kishnaghur, the 31st March 1860.)

SIR,

THE enclosed original petition from Mr. J. White, of Bansbariah has drawn my attention to the several letters signed L. W. Hutchinson, in the accompanying issues of the *Bengal Hurkaru*.

2. Mr. Hutchinson is Moonsiff of Hanskhalee, and in that capacity has to decide on questions at issue between the Planters and their Ryots. There is not apparently anything in these letters which is objectionable or unreasonable, but it is unbecoming for the bench to enter into controversy in the public papers, and I recommend that Mr. Hutchinson be transferred to another chowkee.

3. Mr. White, it seems, complained some time ago to the Judge that the Moonsiff was advising the Ryots and interfering with the working of his factory, but he was not, on being called on for proof, able to adduce any sufficiently specific. The letters to the papers since published show at all events that the Moonsiff has strong opinions on the Indigo question.

From MR. JOHN WHITE, of Bansbariah, to A. GROTE, Esq., Commissioner of Nuddea &c.,—(Kishnaghur, dated the 31st March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice with regret the very reprehensible manner in which Mr. Hutchinson, the Moonsiff of Hanskhally is conducting himself towards my Hanskhally Factory, by continually instigating and backing the Ryots of Govindahpore (a village in the immediate neighbourhood of my Hanskhally Factory) to rebel against the factory: this he has most successfully done, the Ryots being in open insurrection, assaulting any of my factory servants who approach the village. I can only attribute this feeling of animosity to my

having refused Mr. Hutchinson permission to live in my house at Hanskhally, on more than one occasion, after which he applied to my son, who was occupying the house there, and was also politely refused by him.

Mr. Hutchinson commenced the erection of a cutcherry in the midst of the Hanskhally Bazaar, when the Mahajans in a body protested and begged my son to try and have the site removed to near the thannah, and on my son's application to Mr. Skinner, the Judge, an order was obtained to this effect. Ever since the circumstances above mentioned, Mr Hutchinson has invariably shown the greatest animosity to my son and towards the Hanskhally Factory, by encouraging the Ryots of Govindahpore to oppose my factory servants in collecting my rents and in sowing Indigo.

I had occasion to discharge the Gomashta of my Hanskhally Factory for misconduct. Mr. Hutchinson took this man into his confidence, and in conjunction with him tampered with the Ryots to induce them to oppose the factory.

Mr. Hutchinson is now living in this Gomashta's house, which is just outside the factory compound.

In further proof of Mr. Hutchinson's hostility to Indigo Planters in general, I have the honor to produce six numbers of the *Bengal Hurkaru* newspaper, in which he expresses his opinion openly as opposed to Indigo Planters, thus rendering himself unfit to judge impartially between them and the Ryots. Under these circumstances, I trust you will see the justice of removing Mr. Hutchinson from the neighbourhood of Hanskhally.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(No. 1535, dated 5th April 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 14, dated the 31st ultimo, with enclosures, bringing to notice a complaint of Mr. White, of Bansbarriah, against Mr. Hutchinson, the Moonsiff of Hanskhalee, and recommending the transfer of the latter to some other station, on the ground that being a judicial Officer it was unbe-

coming on his part to have entered into a controversy in the newspapers on the Indigo question.

There is nothing objectionable, as you justly remark, in the published writings of Mr. Hutchinson, for which it is proposed to transfer him to some other Moonsiffship; and at the present time it is necessary to be very careful in avoiding all measures which would tend unnecessarily to give any color of partizanship, on either side, to the proceedings of Government in relation to the Indigo question.

Mr. John White, at whose instance you move the Government to transfer Mr. Hutchinson, is, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, the owner of the factory which, under the management of Mr. White, junior, has been brought more than once lately unfavorably to the notice of Government and of the District Criminal Court. Mr. John White commences his present application by charging Mr. Hutchinson with misconduct, and it seems that he had made the same charge before, but was able to bring no evidence in support of it. As he has no more evidence now, and as there seems no reason to suspect Mr. Hutchinson of any misconduct, whilst there is strong ground to be dissatisfied with the late management of the factory, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot consent, on this complaint, to transfer Mr. Hutchinson.

But you may convey in an informal manner to Mr. Hutchinson the Lieutenant Governor's advice not to write any more in the newspapers on the Indigo question whilst he remains in the office of Moonsiff of Hanskhalee; as his doing so, in the present excited state of feeling on that subject, may give an opportunity to those who take a view of that question opposite to his, with more or less of plausibility, to impute to him prejudices likely to warp his judgment, in a certain class of cases that may come judicially before him.

No. XXIV.

From Lord H. U. Browne, Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(No. 821, dated the 6th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to call your attention to a letter in the *Englishman* newspaper of the 27th ultimo, signed "Walter Ken Waller, Surgeon E. B. Railway," bringing to notice certain violent proceedings in the Nuddea District, and to state that as the writer alleges certain occurrences to have taken place, his evidence should be taken, and such subsequent proceedings instituted as may be necessary in the case, unless the matters referred to by the writer have been previously taken up by the Magistrate.

To the Editor of the Englishman.

SIR,

Without entering into the questions at issue between the Nuddea Indigo Planters and their Ryots, so diligently fomented by a portion of the Calcutta weekly press, I think it a duty, and that I may serve the public cause, by informing you of some recent occurrences, the evident consequence of the acts of those persons who see in every Planter a demon and in every Ryot an angel.

I have been five months in this District, and have had ample opportunity of forming opinions as to the truth of such ideas, and need scarcely say I differ widely with the originators of them.

You are aware how the disinclination on the part of the Ryots to sow Indigo has spread throughout this District—a refusal disastrous probably in its effects, but to which *per se* small objection can be taken, if we allow others the same freedom of thought and action we claim for ourselves. But passive resistance to the fulfilment of contracts appears to have ceased, and the following instances will show the animus now commencing to pervade this part of the country.

The Police are much to blame, as the following will show:—

On the morning of Sunday last, the 19th instant, the Darogah of ———with several Burkundauzes, and from 60 to 70 lattials and spearmen, from Jorumpore village, proceeded to the adjoining village and

factory of Chandpore, with the ostensible intention of searching for armed men in the factory employ. None were found; but that the visit might not be profitless, two poor men engaged at the time in gathering date-juice were beaten severely, one of them being also wounded in the calf by a spear; a third man, chowkeedar of an adjacent village, was also assaulted, and the three were then induced by threats or bribes to prefer complaints against the servants of the Chandpore Factory as having attacked and ill-treated them, although, as I have said, the assault was committed on them all by the Darogah's own party, and probably under his own eye. This Darogah is a notorious drunkard, as I could easily prove to you, were not proceedings already commenced against him in another quarter.

Again, this morning, news has been received that the bungalow at Khajoorah Factory, (three miles from Chandpore,) together with the chowkeedar's house, had been partially destroyed by an incendiary fire. The two buildings being at least a quarter of a mile apart, it is not likely that both should have ignited spontaneously or accidentally. Khajoorah bungalow is not inhabited except on occasions of business and during the manufacturing season, and so no risk of loss of life was incurred; but if matters do not improve we may expect those factories which *are* inhabited to become the objects of attack, a prospect of anything but a pleasing character, and one which probably the Ryot's *soi disant* friends and unsolicited counsellors had not anticipated.

If Government would give the Planters fair play, instead of condemning them on *ex parte* statements, if they would but disclaim the diligently circulated rumour that they intend to discourage the growth of Indigo, if they would re-place the present tedious process for non-fulfilment of contract in a Civil Court by a cheap summary process in a Magistrate's, if they would but assist in showing that the interests of Planters and Ryots are not antagonistic, we might look forward to a future less gloomy than that which I, for my part, fear is approaching to both parties, concerned.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,
WALTER KEN WALLER,
Surgeon, Eastern Bengal Railway.

KISHNAGHUR DISTRICT,
February 23rd 1860.

From A. GROTE ESQ., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, (No. 81Ct. dated Allipore, 22nd March 1860.)

SIR,

IN reply to your letter No. 821, dated the 6th instant, drawing my attention to a letter in the *Englishman* newspaper of the

27th ultimo, signed Walter Ken Waller, I beg to submit herewith copy of a letter from the Officiating Magistrate of Nuddea, No. 83, dated the 13th instant, bearing on the subject.

From W. J. Herschel, Esq., Magistrate of Nuddea, to the Commissioner of Circuit, Nuddea Division, (No. 83. dated Kishnaghur, 13th March 1860.)

Sir,

In reply to your Memo. No. 90Ct. dated the 9th instant, I have the honour to state that all the allegations mentioned by Dr Waller, in the *Englishman* newspaper, are under investigation.

The charge of drunkenness against the Darogah (alluded to also in Mr. Meaes' letter to Government) has been disposed of. The Darogah has been acquitted of the charge, which appears to have originated in the natural roughness of his manner.

I may mention that the stories current of two factories having been burnt by the Ryots in this district are half false and partly exaggerated.

The wounding case is under inquiry by Mr. Maclean, and the Khajoora's arson case also. Immediately on the facts being ascertained, you shall be informed of them.

P. S.—Signed in *Camp*, 16th March. To-morrow's weekly report will contain fuller particulars. The Khajoora case is open to doubts. The fact is that the thatched verandah of a small out-factory at Khajoora has been burnt down; the door-posts have also been destroyed by the flames, and a chair and some of the furniture injured. Mr. Maclean reports against its having been an act of incendiarism, but my own opinion inclines the other way. There is absolutely no direct evidence, and the factory people have taken no steps whatever in the matter.

From A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 62Ct., dated the 6th March 1860.)

Sir,

In case his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor may have been led, by the statements lately made in the newspapers, to apprehend that serious disturbances may be expected in the Nuddea District, I beg to lay before him, in original, the first of a series of Weekly Reports which I have for the present called for from the Magistrate.

2. At my suggestion, Mr. Herschel has gone to Goberdangah, and I intend in a day or two to proceed to the Gyeghattah Dâk Bungalow to have an interview with him. Meanwhile, I have instructed him to the purport of the enclosed letter, on the receipt of a very urgent appeal from Mr. Meares of the Lokenathpore Concern. As the latter complained of the conduct of the Joyrampore Ryots, who had petitioned Government, and described them as misleading and instigating other villagers who had already taken their advances, I thought it right to draw the Magistrate's attention to his Honor's orders on the petition in question, received only yesterday, and more especially to that passage in it which should correct the erroneous impression said to prevail among the people that Government is opposed to the cultivation of Indigo.

3. I do not myself apprehend that the Ryots will generally be aggressive; but from all accounts there is a strong and nearly unanimous indisposition on their part to sow Indigo, and this is not confined to those Ryots who have declined to take advances. This is of course a subject of much alarm to the Planters who have advanced, and attempts may be made to avoid impending ruin or heavy losses by sowing for themselves. In this case there may be some serious affrays. The first fall of rain will put an end to the present state of suspense.

4. The return of the original enclosure is requested when no longer required.

First Weekly Report on the state of the Indigo Districts in Nuddea, from W. J. Herschel, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Nuddea, for the Week ending 3rd March 1860.

1. This being the first report, I must revert to the date of my taking charge, on the 20th February. The principal signs of excitement were then in the Southern Thannahs, where the Ryots and the Bengal Indigo Company were in dispute:

2. Previous to that date, Mr. Campbell, an Assistant of Mr. Larmour's (the Manager of the Company), had gone on the 5th January to measure some fields, but was driven off by the Ryots, his Ameen and Gomastah and Khalasees being taken prisoners, and subsequently released the same day. No personal injury was done to any one. In this case, Syam Chunder Pal Chowdhery, the Zemindar, is charged with the instigation of the attack.

3. On the 17th of January, Mr. Hyde, an Assistant in the same Concern, going to test measurements, had two clods thrown at him by the Ryots. He was not hurt.

4. On the 3rd of February, Mr. Campbell again went to measure lands in another village in the same neighbourhood, and under the same Zemindar, where he was assaulted, knocked off his horse, and severely beaten by hired Lattials. In none of these cases did the Ryots make any complaint.

5. On the 17th of February, Mr. Hyde, going again to measure in another village, was prevented by the Ryots, and his Ameen and Khalasee were seized in his presence, and carried off to the Thannah, with a petition saying that Mr. Hyde had come with Lattials, who had been driven off by themselves with loss of the two prisoners.

6. On the 20th of February, the Ryots of Nowhattah, in which Mr. Campbell had been first resisted, sent a Lattial into the Thannah, as having been captured in an attempt (successfully resisted) to carry off the village cattle. The witnesses to this case broke down completely, but no counter-complaint was lodged.

7. With these exceptions no breach of the peace has occurred in Goburdangah Thannah, but several petitions have been put in by the Ryots protesting their aversion to cultivate Indigo.

8. Saursha Thannah has all along been quiet.

9. So has Asaroo (Bagdah) Thannah.

10. The Santipoor Sub-Division is quiet, there being very few Planters in it.

11. In Hanskally the feelings of both parties are very warm, and numerous petitions are presented, but no breach of the peace worth mentioning has occurred since the first serious affray at Gobindpoor (Mr. White's Factory of Bansberiah).

12. In Hadra I expect any moment to hear of an affray; but the only tangible complaint preferred to myself has been one of kidnapping, so clearly resting on false witnesses that I had no hesitation in dropping the search for the missing man and dismissing the case.

13. A complaint however was preferred in December last, to the effect that six men of the village of Sounpookheriah had been seized on the 26th of that month by a party of Lattials dispatched from the Hadra Factory. Search for them failed, and it was only by an accident that they were all released on the 23rd February. Their depositions wear

an appearance of truth, which the unanimous *alibi* pleaded by all the defendants supports. They relate that they were marched about to almost every factory in Mr. Hill's Concern. They do not, however, charge any one except the Lattials originally employed to seize. They say they never saw any one but their guards, and never saw daylight. The case is not absolutely free from doubt; it is however impossible but that, if true, it will be perfectly clear at last.).

14. About the middle of January information was given that two men of Pathurghattah had been carried off on the market day. They were searched for without effect, but yesterday they appeared at the Thannah Hadra, saying they had been released in the night. This case is by no means proved yet; but as no less than five men have been missing from this village for some weeks, *I report* it, particularly as the six men mentioned in the previous case say they met these two in confinement. At the same time, with these two men a third (also of Pathurghatta) appeared at the Thannah, and stated that he had been imprisoned since the 24th Agrun (early in December), and had been released at the same time as the two just mentioned. No complaint had been lodged of this before, the plaintiff saying he had no friends to report it. This man also was seen by the Sounpookheriah men while in detention.

15. In the end of October, Jamirat, a man of Pathurghatta, complained that he and two others had been carried off by the Dewan of Hadra Factory (Mr. Forlong's), and that, after a few days imprisonment in different factories, he escaped while being sent from one to another. His companions have not yet been found. They were both, however, seen at one of the factories where the Sounpookheriah men were confined.

16. In the Damoorhoodah Sub-Division there had been no outbreak of excitement till the 20th, on which day a slight affray took place at Chandpore (Mr. Chardon's factory, in Mr. Meares' Lokenathpore Concern), in which a Ryot, Madaree Sheik, was wounded by a Surkee in the calf of the leg (a bad wound, but not dangerous).

17. A petition has been put in by a Chowkeedar of Mr. Chardon's factory to say that an attempt has been made to burn it down, but as this was several days ago, and no complaint was made at the Thannah, and no attempt has been made to prove the case, I do not altogether trust the complaint. The Darogah has made no report of it. I expect a report from personal investigation of Mr. Maclean in a day or two.

18. Very numerous petitions have been presented by the Ryots, and proportionately by the Planters in that neighbourhood: the former of the usual kind, objecting to take advances, and stating their apprehensions of force being used; the latter accusing different parties of instigating the Ryots.

19. The above statements contain every actual breach of the peace that has occurred worth reporting during the last few months. They do not represent the heat of the feeling that exists, and I must say I think it rather creditable to the Police under my predecessors that no more serious riot has taken place. Kidnapping, however, is a crime which no Police can prevent, and none but a Detective Police can punish, and in the latter we are certainly deficient.

20. As to the measures adopted, besides the ordinary penal remedies, I may report that Mr. Maclean (an Officer on whom, from what I have seen, I have considerable reliance), has gone out to Damoorhoodah, where the best Darogah, Gresh Chunder Bose, of the Kutwally, has also been sent, and where the Police has been reinforced from other Thannahs, and that I am about to leave to-morrow myself for Goburdangah for a short visit, where I will make the changes recommended by yourself.

21. These reports will be continued weekly while necessary.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, (No. — dated Fort William, the 17th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 62Ct., dated the 6th instant, submitting the Magistrate of Nuddea's first Weekly Report upon the present disturbed state of affairs in that District, and in reply to state, that the Lieutenant-Governor approves of the measures adopted by yourself and by the local Officers, at your suggestion, with a view to allay the prevailing excitement.

2. His Honor feels assured that Mr. Herschel will spare no exertions to get at the truth, as to the numerous cases of complaint for false imprisonment alluded to in the 12th and three following paragraphs of his Report.

3. The original enclosure of your letter is returned. The letter of instructions to Mr. Herschel, referred to in your 2nd paragraph, did not accompany your communication under acknowledgement.

From A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 70 Ct., dated the 12th March 1860.)

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 6th instant, No. 62Ct., I have the honor to lay before His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the original second Weekly Report on the state of the Indigo Districts in Zillah Nuddea, and to request the favor of your returning the same when no longer required.

I have been for two days with Mr. Herschel, who is now going to Damoorhoodah. His transfer of some of the Darogahs has been judicious. As he has personally opened the Bongong Sub-Division, I have approved of his retaining charge of it until relieved; and should Government see no objection to the measure, I propose that Mr. McNeil be temporarily appointed to it. It is of importance that a good Officer stays here for the next few weeks.

Second Weekly Report on the state of the Indigo Districts in Nuddea, from W. J. Herschel, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Nuddea, for the Week ending 10th March 1860.

No breaches of the peace have occurred up to date in the South of the District, nor up to Friday evening in the North. Mr. Maclean reports from Damoorhoodah that the excitement is no less, though both parties are more cautious for his presence. He does not anticipate anything like a show of violence on the part of the Ryots on their own motion; and, as the Planters seem sensible of the danger of provoking it, I am in hopes that peace at all events will be preserved.

The Ryots, however, in that District seem determined not to sow Indigo in several villages, the old impression that Government wishes to stop Planting being still prevalent.

I have been myself to the Bongong Sub-Division to ascertain the temper of the Ryots in the South of the Zillah.

In Mr. Larmour's own estates (where he holds Zemindaree rights) the Ryots are prepared to sow as usual, but they are not to be considered as reliable in this respect. The open determination of their fellows on the estates of neighbouring Zemindars, to whom Mr. Larmour has made advances, to refuse all further connection with the factory, has had an effect on them which may still induce them to break their contracts. At present, however, cultivation is going on quietly. It is on the estates of Native Zemindars that the Ryots are showing the worst signs, particularly on that of Syam Chunder Chowdhery. The assaults on Mr. Larmour's Assistants (Messrs. Campbell and Hyde,) reported last week as having occurred some time ago, were all committed by these Ryots, and I am glad to say that on no other estate has any personal violence been offered to Europeans.

The whole of these cases have been taken up, and (with one exception, which will come on for decision on Tuesday next) have been disposed of during the week. Convictions have been obtained in all.

The most serious one, in which Mr. Campbell stated that he had been knocked off his horse, and beaten till he was insensible, has to a certain extent proved a mistake. (Mr. Campbell had just been measuring some lands, which the Ryots assert he had no right to do. The villagers gathered together; one or two men seized his horse's bridle; two men from the crowd struck him with their lattics, one on the shoulder and the other more slightly on the back.) The horse reared and fell, and Mr. Campbell must have been stunned by the fall. It is quite clear, from the absence of all other marks, that he was *not* struck after he fell. I am bound also to say that the witnesses in this case had not been properly warned before being produced. Mr. Campbell's own statement of what occurred up to the moment of his fall was temperate and reliable, and one man has been convicted on it and sentenced to a year's imprisonment. I regret much that no more of the defendants could be punished.

In none of the other cases was any very serious bodily harm done, and the sentences have been in proportion.

I mention this much, as the temper of the Ryots here is supposed to be more violent than it really is. In all these cases their object seems to have been to show determination enough to prevent the Planters from coming to the village again, but not to revenge supposed injuries. The difference appears to me material, and its record but just.

On the 7th I received at Bongong the reply of the Lieutenant-Governor to the Petition of the Lokenathpore Ryots. I published here, and forwarded to Mr. Maclean for publication, the enclosed Perwannah to the Police, with Extracts from the Order.

The Extracts appeared to be all that was of *general* importance in the Order, and the Perwannah will, I hope, be found to be in accordance with its spirit.

The Order has already been beneficial. Some of the villagers, who had hitherto hesitated to act up to their agreements, have now expressed their willingness to do so, and one of the hostile Zemindars has sent conciliatory orders to his Ryots. But on Syam Chunder's estates the Ryots are as firm as before. They deny indeed that they have taken advances, but against this is the statement of Mr. Larmour's Assistant that he gave it to them with his own hand. This morning I learn that these Ryots interpret the Order as a prohibition to sow Indigo. I am not sorry therefore that I have already told both parties that for further interpretations of the Law they must look to the Court alone.)

I have seen enough already of the risks attending such proceedings as the public expression of opinion through the Mofussil Police on matters of private interest in dispute. Nothing, therefore, but the growing strength and consequences of the rumour which, arising from such a step, has gained ground among the Ryots as to the hostility of Government to Indigo Planting would have induced me to counteract it by a second step, which must for a time embarrass my position with both parties still further than I found it to be on my arrival in the Zillah by the first.

But the consequences had already become important. To the Planters indeed they were vital, and they threatened to become serious to the public peace of the District on the first fall of rain, and that was already falling.

Under these circumstances the Perwannah will, I hope, meet your approbation and that of the Government.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate.

12*th March* 1860.

P. S.—I have received, since writing the above, a note from Mr. Maclean, reporting a circumstance which, unless I can induce the Planters to prove their disavowal of its origin, may, I much fear, complicate matters exceedingly in the Damoorhoodah Sub-Division. A few nights ago, on the 7th and 8th, the Village of Doodhpethley was fired, and twenty-eight houses were burnt down. The circumstances leave little room for doubt that the act was one of incendiarism. From previous occurrences it is natural to attribute it to the agency of the Lokenathpore Factory. This is the conclusion to which the Ryots have at once come. Two men, of low standing indeed, attached to the factory, are named by the Ryots. It is hardly credible that any Englishman can have given orders for such a deed, but it is not impossible that it may have been committed for the express purpose of inducing an explosion of feeling by third parties. I have written to Mr. Meares, suggesting either the offer of a high reward by the Planters for the discovery of the offender, or if possible, a subscription in favor of the sufferers. Unfortunately the property destroyed is estimated at 5,000 Rupees.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of the Nuddea Division,—(No. 1024, dated Fort William, the 19th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 70Ct., dated the 12th instant, enclosing in original Mr. Herschel's 2nd Weekly Report on the state of the Indigo Districts in Zillah Nuddea, and in reply to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor approves of your proposal to appoint Mr. McNeil temporarily to the charge of the Bongong Sub-Division, which he has been directed to join with as little delay as possible.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor desires to be furnished with copies of the orders passed on all the cases under trial, and which have been tried since Mr. Herschel took charge of the Sub-Division, connected with disputes between the servants of Indigo factories and Ryots.

3. The original enclosure of your letter is herewith returned as requested, a copy being kept for record in this Office.

From A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 7, dated Kishnaghur, the 29th March 1860.)

Sir,

With advertance to para. 2 of your letter No. 1024, of the 19th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith, in original, the decisions of Mr. Herschel, Officiating Magistrate of Nuddea, in cases connected with disputes between the servants of Indigo factories and Ryots.

2. I request the favor of your returning the original enclosures when done with.

Prosecutor.	G. H. Hyde.	
His Witnesses.		
Defendants.	1. Moteelal Roy, 2. Izhar Mundul, 3. Jarif Mundul, 4. Pheltu Mundul, 11. Amir Mundul, 12. Jarif Sirdar,	5. Badan Shekh. 6. Bori Mohammed. 7. Moonshee Shekh. 8. Mokarim Mundul. 9. Nasim Mundul, 10. Badan Khamar. 13. Safardi Sirdar.
Their Witnesses.		
Crime charged.		

Proceedings.

George Hamilton Hyde,—*sworn* before the Officiating Magistrate of Nuddea, 5th March 1860.—On the morning of the 17th of February I

went to Foolsurra to measure certain Indigo lands. I measured there for some time, and then went on to Panchpotha and commenced measuring there. Moteelal Roy came out mounted on horseback with some 80 men. They surrounded me. Four or five of them caught the horse by the bridle, and Moteelal coming up made a blow at me with his stick. It struck the horse on the back, and at the same time I gave the horse the spurs, and the others were shaken off, and I got off to Gyeghatta. As I went I was pelted by clods, one of which broke in my solah hat, (hat produced, broken on the rim;) I was hit in several places on the body, and my horse also, and I was obliged to ride hard for the factory. I have not dared to leave it since; I mean, not to visit the fields. I have been obliged to keep to the roads. The Ameen and the Kalashee were seized and taken to the Pharee at Belta. I rode in to Kishnaghur next morning to complain to the Magistrate, and was instructo put in my petition to the Darogah as the case was being investigated by him.

Questioned by the Court.—Did any but the two men, your Ameen and Khalashee, accompany you?

One more, the thikka Khalashee. We were only four men altogether; I positively swear this.

Whose fields are those on which you went to measure?

The fields belonged to the Ryots of Panchpotha; I don't know to which one in particular.

Then what did you go to do, not knowing whose field it was?

We make advances to the Ryots of a particular village to sow Indigo.

The Ameen and his Khalashees go to the village after the advances are over, and with the Ryot measure the land for which he has taken advance. I afterwards test the measurements to see that the factory is fairly treated as well as the Ryot. These lands had been advanced for and measured with the Ryots' consent before I went. I took out the Jarif Chitta with me, which is a note-book compiled by the Ameen, showing the name of the Ryot and the extent of land which he has engaged to cultivate.

Had you picked out any particular field for measurement in this case?

No; the assult was made before I had time to do it.

Could you recognize any one of the defendants?

I could recognize Moteelal Roy, but no others.

Do you charge any others?

No, I don't know them nor their names. The Darogah, in his inquiry,

has found the riot proved against 6 or 7 men, whose names I don't know, but I wish to prosecute them as well.

Beri Mohammed.—Defendant, present, asks no specific question.

Nasimooddeen.—The same.

Mokarim.—Asks what mischief he has done to the Saheb for which he is charged. It is explained him that he is charged as one of the riotous assembly which beat him and pelted him.

Kalachand Shekh Wit.—As above recognizes 3, Safarid Sirdar. 13, 12, 2, first seized the bridle, and 1, a servant of Syam Chunder Pal came up on horseback, and taking a lattee from a lattial, &c.

Questioned by defendant *Mokarim.*—Does not know whether Safarid, Jarif Sirdar, Izhar Mundul and Jarif Mundul were in Kishnaghur or not that day; knows they were at the Saheb's horse's head that day.

Dabnath Bose.—As above; recognizes 1, 3, 2, 12, 13, as seizing the bridle. Besides as concerned in the row generally, 9, 10, 5, 7.

Sadhoo Khalashee—1 2, 12, 13, 3, seized the bridle. Besides these 11, 8, 2, 3, 13, 12.

6*th March.*—*George Hyde*, re-examined.—Recognizes Moteelal, present, distinctly, and believes he recognizes Izhar, but cannot be certain.

Debnath Basu.—Recognizes 1, 2, 3, 12, 13; 1, struck at the Saheb with a stick and the others seized his bridle.

Sadhoo, Khalashee.—Ditto ditto.

Kalachand Shekh.—Ditto ditto; has known them all for a long time.

26*th March* 1860.—*Moteelal*, Defendant (6th March at Bongong) denies; says he has nothing to do with Indigo. Why should he beat the Saheb? Calls witnesses to prove that "he did not beat."

Witnesses for *Moteelal*, Defendant.—In Phalgun on 5th or 6th, I went to buy rice at Moteelal's house; Soojjaddie Mundul came also. I bought the rice and went home. Moteelal fought with no one. It is half a mile from there to where the Saheb had the row.

Soojjaddie Mundul.—As above—Leaving Motee's house I saw a row going on, and saw the Saheb with some Ryots quarrelling. Saw the Saheb push Nasim; the Ryots protested and seized the servants of the Saheb.

Decision.—Putting the two cases together, it is abundantly clear that Mr. Hyde went accompanied only by 3 measuring servants to measure certain lands, and was surrounded by a considerable body of Ryots, who, led by Mooteelal, Defendant, drove Mr. Hyde off with blows of [redacted]ks

and clods, and seized two of the servants attending him, whom they carried off prisoners to the Thanna. The last witness's statement tends to show that some provocation was given for the assault by the plaintiff having pushed Nasim. But this statement is very different from that made by the witnesses for the counter-charge, and is evidently introduced only to throw in a doubt on the case. I consider that Mr. Hyde's statement is quite intact, and as the *alibi* is as usual worthless, and was not even urged at the time the defence was taken, I convict Motee of the crime charged, and considering that he was the first to strike a blow, which did not hit the plaintiff; that he had, according to his own statement nothing to do with the dispute, and that it was in his power, and that of the mob if they chose to order Mr. Hyde off, to have done so without resorting to violence, I sentence him to three months' imprisonment and a fine of 50 Rupees, in default of which he will be imprisoned for three months more, and for each period of imprisonment he will pay a fine of 10 Rupees, or labor in default, till the fine be paid or the sentence expire.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Offg. Magistrate.

26th *March* 1860.

The remaining defendants present, Izhar Mundal, Jariff Mundal, Jarif Sirdar, Safarid Sirdar plead *alibi* at Kishnagurh on the day in question. But on referring to the petition, it appears to have been presented on the 18th, whereas the assault took place on the 17th February. The fact of the presentation of this petition makes me more inclined to believe the witnesses for the prosecution than before, and I convict the defendants of having joined in the riotous assault on the plaintiff.

As I find that the punishments inflicted at Bongong have had their due effect in preventing violence on a subsequent occasion, I will not punish these defendants so strictly. The seizure of the servants forms no part of the charge.

They are sentenced each to a fortnight's simple imprisonment.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Offg. Magistrate.

26th *March* 1860.

Nasimooddeen, the same; to take effect on the conclusion of his present term.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Offg. Magistrate.

26th March 1860.

J. S. Campbell, a native of Scotland, being duly sworn by the Bible, sayeth, that—I am an Assistant in the Bengal Indigo Company, living at Jypoor Factory. On the 5th January 1860, I went to test the measurement at Noyhattah. I had measured about sixteen hands, when all the Ryots came out from the village of Noyhattah with spears and lattees, numbering about some 200 men, and I saw a man on horseback, a red horse, giving orders to the lattials to take me and my Gomastah, Rogoomoney Mookherjeya, prisoners. The name of this man I ascertained to be Nobin Biswas, Gomastah of Syam Chunder Pal Chowdry, zemindar. They took the Gomastah, Ameen, Bheemchand Paulit, Mosahdy Khalasee, and Jibun Sheik, ticca Khalasee, and were about to take me, only I succeeded to get away from them on horseback. They went in near *cul* to intercept me in the next village, but I succeeded to get there before. I saw my Gomastah, Ameen and Khalasees taken prisoners. About five hours afterwards the people came back to me that they were kept in *duresse vile* in Nowboteah bazar, in whose house I cannot say, and after five hours let go. It was about 9 o'clock in the morning when all this happened. I did not know any of the Assistants' names, neither could I recognize any of them, but my Officers, who were taken prisoners, know them and could recognize them. I had no other witnesses on the spot except my Gomastah and the other men who were with me and who suffered. I think Syam Chunder Pal Chowdry had instigated the Ryots to attack me and my servants, and thereby not allowing us to measure the lands. I understand that the above zemindar has been bound over to keep the peace towards the Bengal Indigo Company for a year, which year has not expired yet.

Taken before me this day, the 11th January 1860, at Chobeea.

J. S. CAMPBELL.

HENRY MACLEAN,
Deputy Magistrate.

7th March.—Sworn again.

I recognize the man present, as the man whom I saw on horseback, (Nobin Biswas is pointed out.)

By Defendant.—I think you were dressed in white, you were ahead of the others. I never saw you before.

By the Court.

How then can you swear to him now?

I saw him under circumstances that made a strong impression at a very short distance, about 40 yards off, and I am positive this is the man.

Decision.—On looking over Mr. Campbell's evidence before the Deputy Magistrate, I find that he stated then that he could not recognize any of his Assistants. He may have meant that he did not recognize them at the time, but could if he saw them again, but when the evidence against a prisoner rests, as in this case, solely on the statement of one man, (I reject the witnesses as worthless in this as in the other case) it is essential that it should not be open to any misinterpretation or doubt. The point noted is certainly enough to throw a doubt over any recognition, and though I doubt not that Mr. Campbell trusts his own judgment now in recognizing the prisoner,* it is not fair to the latter to rest on that alone.

* Nobin Biswas.

I acquit the prisoner.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate.

26*th March* 1860.

The information and deposition of James Stuart Campbell, taken on oath before me, Edward Drummond, Magistrate and Justice of the Peace in and for the District of Nuddea, on the 4th February 1860.

On the morning of the 3rd, yesterday, I went to re-measure the Indigo lands in Bandarkhola village, which belongs to Sham Chunder Pal Chowdry. I re-measured all the lands; after doing so, I was proceeding by the road to the next village of Rossoolpore, when I was attacked by about 200 men armed with lattees and spears. They immediately surrounded me, and the lattials beat my horse on the head, which caused him to rear, and fall upon me; at the same time they struck me a severe blow with a lattee

on the right shoulder, and after I was down, beat me severely on the small of the back. I was stunned by the severe beating and the fall of the horse, and lay there insensible; after I recovered my senses, the whole of them were out of sight. I imagine I must have lain there without my hat (topee) in the sun for an hour. I then got up and went to Kurrispore; my horse was scampering all over the country, and the Ryots of Kurrispore caught him for me.

Do you know the names of any of those who attacked you?

Yes, Kadee Biswas, Tazoo Mundul, Napal Mundul, Jaheer Mundul. The leaders were Nobin Biswas, Dinonath Mitro, Bhobun Mohun Mitro.

Do you know exactly who struck you?

He was a lattial, I should know him perfectly if I saw him.

Why did they thus attack you?

At the instigation of Sham Chunder Pal Chowdry. He is the Zemindar of that village, and wants the lands himself, but his Ryots have taken their advances from us in the factory. These villages were perfectly quiet, took their advances and measured off their lands, until the issue of a perwannah by the Deputy Magistrate of Kalarooah, to say that the Ryots need not sow Indigo unless they liked. The Ryots were led to believe that it was a Government order not to sow Indigo, as it was issued by a Government servant.

Was any one with you when you were attacked?

I have written the names in the Bengalee petition of those who were with me, and saw the affair.

Do you know if there be any assemblage of lattials anywhere near the spot now?

I believe they are distributed to the number of about 8 or 10 in each of the zemindar's villages.

In what Thannah are these villages?

In Thannah Goburdangah.

How far off is the Thannah ?

About 12 or 14 miles, but the Pharree of Bongong is about 4 or 5 miles off only, and the Naib Darogah was at the time within a mile or two of the attack.

E. DRUMMOND,
Magistrate.

February 4th, 1860.

James Campbell, sworn 6th March 1860.

Did you know the Defendants whose names you have given by name before this, or had you ascertained their names since when you gave your deposition ?

I did not know their names before—I ascertained them from my servants.

Can you recognize any of the men here present ?

I recognize Jahur Mundul (pointing him out) as the man who knocked me off the horse, *i. e.*, who struck the horse.—I do not recognize any of the others.

Had you seen Nobin Chunder that day ?

No, I do not remember seeing him ; my servants tell me they saw him.

By Mokhteear for 1, 2, 3.

When did you ascertain these names ?

The next day.

How much had you measured in Bhandarkhola ?

28 or 30 Bunds.

From where you were beaten, in which direction do Bhandarkhola and Belta bear from whence you say these lattials came ?

I was going towards Rossoolpore, Bhandarkhola was on my left about a stone's throw off, and Belta was in the same direction about 1½ miles off ; I could not see Belta through Bhandarkhola.

Where were your servants at the time ?

They were round about me at speaking distance.

Were they also surrounded ?

Yes.

Could you distinguish between lattials and Ryots?

The only way to tell a lattial is by his latti. A great many had lattees, and many had spears.

W. J. HERSCHEL.
Officiating Magistrate.

I have examined Mr. Campbell's body. He has the mark of a severe latty blow or blows on his shoulder, and a mark of slighter nature on the small of the back.

E. DRUMMOND,
Magistrate.

February 4th 1860.

Prosecutor.	James Campbell.
His Witnesses.	
Defendants, ...	1. Nobin Biswas. 2. Dinonath Miter. 3. Bhooban Mohun Miter. 4. Hadee Biswas. 5. Tazoo Mundul. 6. Napal Mundul. 7. Jaheer Mundul.
Their Witnesses.	
Crime charged.	

PROCEEDINGS.

James Campbell—Deposes that he had been measuring the lands of Bhandarkhola village (belonging to Syam Chunder Pal) for Indigo, the Ryots being under engagement to him, and was going along the road to Rossoolpore, when he was surrounded by some 200 lattials, who knocked him off his horse, (hit the horse so that he reared and fell over,) beat him severely as he lay on the ground, and left him for senseless. Names Defendants 1 to 7, 1, 2 and 3 being leaders.

For examination see original.

Mosahib Shekh.—As above. Says, as we were going, Nobin, 1, 2, and 3, came and said "Beat the Saheb and drive him off, it is Syam Chunder's order;" accordingly they did so, and Hadee (4) struck the Saheb's horse, and Tazoo (5) struck the Saheb on the back, and Napal Mundul (6) struck him also, and he fell off the horse, then 7 struck the Saheb. We ran off and could not see who else beat him. They then left, and the Saheb lay there. Names some score of others.

Examined.—We were not surrounded with the Saheb—we were outside the crowd.

The Saheb asked us what we could tell, and we said what we had seen. I was asked separately.

The Defendants 1, 2, 3, were in clean clothes, as now they were among the lattials—I had not seen them before that day.

Kalu Shekh, Khalashee.—4, struck the horse, same as above; names a score of others.

Bheemchand Malik.—As above—positively swears that all three 1, 2 and 3, called out to do it as it was Syam Chunder's order.

Sibdoyal Syce.—As above.

Jaheer Mundul's defence to be taken, the others released.

Defendant *Jaheer Mundul* pleads *alibi* at Belta.

Poran, Burkundaze.—On the 22nd of Magh, at 9 o'clock, defendant was in his own house at Belta.

Izzutali, Burkundaze, ditto.—I was going through Palla to Belta. At Belta I was passing Jaheer's house, where I saw Jaheer measuring out mustard seed to Sonai Mundul.

Haran, Chokeedar.—Ditto, ditto.—I was going back from Palla to Belta, and saw the mustard, measured out.

Sonai, Chowkeedar.—Ditto, as to time; Dallee came to me calling out, Izzat and Poran call you. I said, why? They said Mr. Larmour's people are gathered together, hence you are called. I went to the burkundazes, who took me towards the lattials and called out *dohai.* The lattials fled. I returned to Belta, and passing through Jaheer's house went to the Naib Darogah. Saw Jaheer measuring out mustard to Sonai. I went and reported to the Darogah.

Sonai.—Day the same *about*, Jaheer was measuring mustard up to noon.

DECISION.

The evidence of the witnesses is evidently not to be relied on, when

they charge Nobin Biswas and the two other zemindaree servants with giving the orders for the attack. Had there been any such leadership among the defendants—particularly had Nobin, a very short stout man, of high caste appearance, been present in the front rank of the assailants, clothed as described in clean white clothes, and calling out in the tone of authority alleged—it is quite impossible but that Mr. Campbell must have seen it and noticed it. Nobin too was known to Mr. Campbell by sight, he having seen him to recognize him on a previous occasion when he was assaulted. I cannot therefore look on the witnesses produced as other than reckless assertors of what they think best for the interests of the case, and I set their evidence aside altogether. That the assault took place, however, is beyond dispute: Mr. Campbell bore the marks of it when he appeared at Kishnaghur. It seems, however, from Mr. Drummond's description of the bruises that Mr. Campbell must have lost his senses through the fall from the horse, and that the beating was not a repeated one. A lattee blow leaves on a white skin an unmistakeable mark and there was only one mark of a severe blow "or blows on *the shoulder*," (there could not well have been more than two blows on the same spot,) and of one slighter one on the small of the back. These two blows coincide exactly with Mr. Campbell's description of the beating he got before he fell from his horse and lost his senses. That his body showed no other marks is, I think, conclusive evidence that he was *not* beaten after he was down.

This very materially affects the guilt of the Defendants, and makes it much less than Mr. Campbell evidently thought it to be.

I rely fully on Mr. Campbell's recognition of the Defendant Jaheer, and the witnesses for the *alibi* have evidently no ground for one and all remembering the date on which they saw Defendant measuring mustard, so that the *alibi* is worthless.

I convict Defendant of having been the first to seize Plaintiff's bridle in a riotous assault committed on him, and sentence him to six months' imprisonment and 100 Rupees fine, in default of which he will be imprisoned for 6 months more; for each six months he will pay a fine of 25 Rupees, for the first within 7 days, for the second on the first day of the term), in default of which he will labor till the fine be paid or the sentence expire.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate.

7th March 1860.

Prosecutor,	George Hyde.
His witnesses,	Bekaoolla.
Defendants,...	1. Madoo Mollah. 2. Beeshoo Mollah. 3. Azimooddeen Mollah.
Their witnesses.	
Crime charged.	

PROCEEDINGS.

Plaintiff sworn. Deposes that he went to measure certain lands in the village of Gogeshpore, when a body of some 50 Ryots assembled from the neighbouring three villages of Gogeshpore, Mirzapore and Damhattee. A Ryot of the name of Madoo Mollah (1) gave orders to pelt him with clods, and Defendants 2 and 3 did so and hit his horse. He had to turn away to save himself.

Bekaoolla, witness—Is an Indigo Khalashee. On the 5th Magh went with the Plaintiff and others to Mirzapore where we measured the lands. Then proceeding at 9 o'clock to Gogeshpore the party began to measure, some 30 or 40 Ryots of the neghbouring villages came round the Saheb and at 1's order 2 and 3 pelted him, both clods hit the horse. The Saheb went off to Baragurreea. The others were prepared to pelt him too. Recognizes the three prisoners.

By Madoo.—I saw you give the order.

By Azim, and Bishoo. Damhattee is about ¾ of a mile off, Gogeshpore about 2 stones' throw, I know all three of old; have seen them fully 25 times; no row before the pelting.

Hosseindee,—ill.

Ramtaran Chatterjee.—As above, recognizes all three.

Azimooddeen, Defendant—Denies; ignores it altogether; says the Plaintiff never went to his village; lives in Damhattee. I went to Gantee on the 1st Magh and returned on the 18th Magh.

By the Court,—I have no quarrel with Bekaoolla nor with Ramtaram.

Madu, Defendant—Denies, says it is entirely a false case; offers an *alibi* at Neemtola all the 5th Magh.

Beeshoo Mollah, Defendant—Denies. Doesn't know why he is charged. Was with Madoo all the 5th.

Witnesses to *alibi* of Madoo and Beeshoo.

Ram Koomar Napit, Defendant—Came and bought grass in Neemtolla on the 5th of Magh. I shaved them; they staid and ate there, and went away in the evening.

Examined,—I was told on that day by (hesitates) Rahmat Mundul that it was the 5th, otherwise I would not have known it. I don't know what date it is now.

Kanhai Mundul.—On the 5th, I and Haro Moola went to Neemtolla to Rahmat Mundul's house; reached there in the evening and saw Madoo Mollah, who settled the value of the grass for us. Examined about particulars as to dates; only knows the 5th, because Rahmat said the sale is effected, to day is the 5th. Does not know why he said to-day is the 5th.

Another witness—Equally vague. Admits that he only knows it was about that time.

DECISION.

The case is so clear that I need not recite any reasons for holding the Defendants guilty of the crime charged, and in the degrees assigned. I convict Modoo and Beeshoo, the former as instigator of a riotous assault on Mr. Hyde, and considering that whether legally employed or not, the plaintiff was measuring lands in a perfectly peaceable manner, and that if the defendants had chosen they might have warned the plaintiff off without resorting to violence. I sentence them as follows:

Madoo Mollah to 3 months' imprisonment, and a fine to be paid in 7 days of 25 Rupees, in default of which to labor till the fine be paid or the sentence expire.

Beeshoo Mollah, to the same period of imprisonment, and the same condition on non-payment of a fine of 10 rupees.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate.

6*th March* 1860.

The defence of Azimooddeen has been given to day and takes the same form of an *alibi;* Defendant says he went to buy cattle, but falling ill at a friend's house returned home without doing so. I do not see why he should not have bought his cattle after his recovery, if they were to be had in that neighbourhood.

I discredit the *alibi*, and sentence the prisoner to 3 months' imprisonment and a fine of 10 Rupees, payable in 7 days, in default of which he is to labor till the fine be paid or the sentence expire.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate.

7th March 1860.

Prosecutor,...	Government on information of Mr. Larmour.
His Witnesses,	
Defendants,...	Haniff Shekh, Nilmoney Kowra.
Their Witnesses,	
Crime Charged,	

PROCEEDINGS.

9th February,—Darogah reports that while inquiring into Mr. Campbell's case at the village of Palla he was informed by the Gomashta of Mr. Larmour that there were men assembled at the house of Ishan Mookerjee; that he went and found them there, but could only seize two, the rest having bolted.

2 *Witnesses* prove the capture of the two prisoners and the flight of others.

Paran Khan, burkundaze, accompanied the Darogah to arrest the jamaiat bust as above.

2 *other Burkundazes* the same.

Nilmony defendant, says he had been carrying a pack for Dinosambho Naib of the village of Palla, calls witnesses.

Hanif Shekh,—Denies; says he was ill and went to show himself to him when he was seized.

DECISION.

There is nothing in the evidence to show that these men are lattials, or were assembled to commit a breach of the peace. Neither of them have the appearance of lattials, and I must therefore acquit them. The Darogah will however take up a charge of vagrancy against them, and if they cannot show that they have an honest livelihood, he will send them up to give security.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate.

6*th March* 1860.

From A. GROTE, ESQ., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 71Ct., dated the 13th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, as requested, to lay before His Honor the following report on the state of things in Zillah Nuddea, which has been much exaggerated in the daily and other papers published during the last fortnight.

2. Since the beginning of February, the villagers in parts of Messrs. Hill's Concern have been manifesting a determination to sow no more Indigo. More recently this feeling has spread to the Lokenathpore and to several villages of the Mulnath Concern, and in some cases it has led to noisy demonstrations, which have caused alarm and given rise to the reports of outrages.

3. To be specific, I will trace a few of these reports to their probable origin. They relate for the most part to occurrences in the Damoorhoodah Sub-Division, and my information regarding them is derived from Mr. Assistant Magistrate Maclean, who joined that station towards the end of February.

4. The story of the burning of the Lokenathpore Factory alluded to by one newspaper correspondent reduces itself in Mr. Meares' letter to me to the partial burning of an out-factory at Kajooreah. This act was ascribed to incendiaries, and a complaint was made accordingly to the Magistrate at Kishnaghur, but none was made to the local Police, and the factory did not push this charge laid before the Magistrate. There is nothing, says Mr. Maclean, to show that the fire was not accidental.

5. The charge of misconduct brought by the same factory against a Police Darogah was not substantiated to Mr. Maclean's satisfaction, but he has sent the case to the Magistrate for final orders. The best Darogah in the district has since been transferred to the Damoorhoodah Thannah.

6. The demonstration against the Peerpore Factory was a fact. A riotous party from Chooadangah approached this factory, but dispersed of itself and quietly. This occurred before Mr. Maclean joined his Sub-Division, and was not reported to me till a day or two ago.

7. The impression which Mr. Maclean says apparently caused this and other demonstrations was an apprehension, perfectly groundless, on the villagers' part that the factory would attack them.

8. The attacks on Mr. Larmour's assistants, Messrs. Hyde and Campbell, were by villagers whose lands had been measured for Indigo. In both cases they were bold and unwarrantable. One man only could be identified in Mr. Campbell's case, and he has been punished.

9. The Magistrates, both of Nuddea and Jessore, declare to the general prevalence of an impression among the villagers that Government is opposed to the cultivation of Indigo. In my letter of the 10th February, I reported on this subject, and laid before His Honor Mr. Larmour's letter praying for the issue of a Government Notification counteractory of such a misimpression. I stated the result of my demi-official references to Mr. Reid, who had been marching through the Indigo country, and to Mr. Drummond who had at first advocated a Notification. I gave my voice against the issue of one, because the Kallarooah Deputy Magistrate's injudicious order to which the false impression was ascribed was already some five months old, and because supposing this order to have been the real source of the mischief, it would be difficult after such a lapse of time to word another which should simply have the effect of counteracting it.

10. As however the excitement and mutual mistrust appeared to be spreading, I took advantage of the Government order on the Joyrampore villagers' petition directly it reached me, and ordered its publication to all parties. This order was calculated at least to undeceive those Ryots who had taken advances of the impression said to have been produced on them by the Deputy Magistrate's order, that they were at liberty to repudiate their obligations; I have since had an interview with Mr. Herschel at Gyeghattah, and have reason to think that this publication will have a good effect.

11. But I regret to have to add that Mr. Herschel received a letter yesterday evening from Mr. Maclean in which the occurrence of a disastrous fire in a village near Lokenathpore is reported. This is unfortunate, as it has at once been ascribed by the people to the factory underlings.

12. At the request of several Planters in the Damoorhoodah Sub-Division Police Burkundazes have been stationed at their factories, and I have told Mr. Maclean to order down a small party of the Police Corps if he thinks it necessary to strengthen the Thannah Police. I quite agree, however, with him and Mr. Herschel that no aggressive acts on the part of the villagers are at present contemplated; their object is to intimidate the Planters from attempting to sow, and to resist such attempts if made. Such an attitude is, of course, sufficient to cause deep alarm and anxiety to those who have paid out large advances.

13. In a further letter just received from Mr Herschel, I find it admitted that Mr. Meares had cause for complaint against the conduct of the Damoorhoodah Police. This has, as I have shown above, since been rectified.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of the Nuddea Division,—(No. 983, dated Fort William, the 17th March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 71Ct., dated the 13th instant, reporting upon the excitement at present prevailing in some parts of the Nuddea District, in connection with the cultivation of Indigo.

2. It is satisfactory to the Lieutenant-Governor to learn, from the actual facts as reported by you, that the state of affairs in that District

has been much exaggerated in the representations made in the newspapers.

3. The measures reported in paragraph 12 of your letter are approved. Although the local Officers and yourself agree in thinking that no aggressive acts on the part of the villagers are contemplated, and the Lieutenant-Governor sees no reason to doubt the soundness of that opinion, yet if you consider it advisable, in order to be prepared for the possibility of things taking a worse turn, to have at hand, in any parts of the District, small bodies of a Police Battalion, his Honor will make such arrangements as are possible for strengthening the force of Military Police in your Division.

4. You state that the object of the villagers "is to intimidate the Planters from attempting to sow, and to resist such attempts if made," and very correctly remark that "such an attitude is sufficient to cause deep alarm and anxiety to those who have paid out large advances." Intimidation by force, or show of force, and the gathering of large riotous assemblages for such a purpose, will of course be put a stop to by the Police to the best of their power, and it is very desirable that wherever such intimidation is likely to be attempted the Police should be in strength. But the Lieutenant-Governor does not think it probable that either intimidation or violence will be resorted to where the villagers are properly advised by the Magisterial Officers and the Darogahs of Police, of the criminality of such conduct, and of the severe punishment by which it will assuredly be followed.

5. Should persons willing to sow their lands with Indigo be, on that account, anywhere menaced by others, from bad feeling towards a factory, or for any other reason, such persons should be specially protected, and the leading men of those who thus lawlessly threaten them should be apprehended and punished.

6. If in any parts there should be reason to suppose that villagers who have contracted to cultivate Indigo are likely in a body to break their lawful engagements, it will be proper for the Magistrate and every Police Officer, and indeed for every well-disposed and disinterested person, to spare no pains in showing such villagers the impropriety and dishonesty of such conduct; and the criminal character of a conspiracy to defraud an Indigo Planter, or any other person, in this manner, and the ruinous consequences to themselves if prosecuted by the injured party, should be carefully pointed out to them. His Honor observes that Mr. Herschel has

already most properly urged, in the strongest manner, Ryots who have taken advances not to fail in the fufilment of their obligations, and he trusts that this line of conduct will have good effects.

7. Whatever may be the causes of the quarrel which has broken out between some Indigo factories and the Ryots, those Ryots who may wish to disconnect themselves from the cultivation of Indigo, though fully justified in declining to make new contracts, are bound to fulfil their existing engagements. In the mean time it is to be hoped that the matter may be settled amicably, by such concessions on one side or the other, or on both, as reason and fairness dictate, and as will result in the mutual advantage of both parties. No system of trade can be safe or stable where the bargains are not for the profit of both parties; and perhaps, in this view, both parties in this quarrel may be advised to their permanent advantage.

From A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 78Ct., dated the 19th March 1860.)

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 983, dated 17th instant, I beg to state for the information of his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor that the communications which I receive from Mr. Herschel represent the villagers about Joyrampore as being perfectly tractable and amenable to authority. I have, however, as a matter of precaution directed Captain Raban to send a party of fifty men to the Damoorhoodah Thannah.

2. I yesterday despatched fifty men under Lieutenant Howard, of Captain Raban's Corps, to Bongong, to be ready should they be required to advance to the Kaloopole Thannah in Jessore. I took this step on a letter received on Saturday afternoon from Mr. Skinner, but I have doubts whether the services of the party will be required. I am expecting to hear further from Mr. Molony, and Mr. Herschel's third Weekly Report will probably reach me to-morrow.

3. Copy of your present instructions has been sent to all the Magistrates, who have already been desired to use their influence to get existing contracts carried out. In many cases they will, I have reason to think, be successful; in others however, the Ryots deny that they have become parties to any contract, and claim protection in the exercise of the option

which the late Government Orders have conceded to them. These are the cases respecting which I am anxious, the practice having hitherto been for the Planters themselves to sow all the lands which the factory claimed "as marked for" Indigo. Their attempts to do this in the present temper of the Ryots will be very likely to meet with opposition.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of the Nuddea Division,—(No. 1053, dated Fort William, the 21st March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 78Ct., dated the 19th instant, and in reply to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor considers your Report of the state of affairs in the Southern portion of your Division to be in some respects satisfactory.

2. Your instructions to Captain Raban, to send a party of fifty men from the Station of Nuddea to the Damoorhoodah Thannah, as a precautionary measure, were very proper. The Lieutenant-Governor had an opportunity of conferring personally with Captain Raban yesterday, and arranged for his making up the Detachment from Nuddea to a party of eighty men, under a European Officer and a good Native Officer; so as to make it possible, if any necessity should arise, to break the Detachment into two parties.

3. The despatch of Sub-Lieutenant Howard with fifty more men of the 6th Battalion, from Head Quarters to Bongong, is entirely approved. A party will be supplied from the 4th Battalion, now in the Burdwan Division, to replace the party detached from the Station of Nuddea.

4. Two more Detachments, one of which will be under a European Officer, are available from Captain Raban's Battalion; and as their movement into the interior of the Nuddea District, towards the Jessore and Moorshedabad borders, can do no harm, and may inspire confidence, Captain Raban has been informed that he may expect further and specific orders from you regarding them immediately.

5. These precautions are taken from no misgiving as to the correctness of the belief entertained by the District Officers and yourself that nothing is more improbable than the occurrence of any spontaneous act of aggression on the part of the Ryots. But where such a quarrel as this

has broken out, and where such general excitement prevails, the Civil power, whose great object it must be to preserve the peace of the country under all circumstances, cannot be made too strong. And the concluding paragraph of your letter shows there is a possibility of a breach of the peace being provoked by others than Ryots.

6. Should any Managers of an Indigo Factory appear likely to commit any unlawful act, such as cannot but exasperate not only Indigo Ryots, but all the villagers of their neighbourhood, it will be well to endeavour, by quietly reasoning with them, to convince them not only of the penal consequences to themselves, and to those whom they may employ, should loss of life or other serious calamity occur in the course of any unlawful proceeding of theirs, but also of the certain injury to the commercial interests of their factories which such imprudent conduct will involve. These gentlemen, if they will take a calm view of their position, it is to be hoped, will see, that where there is a dispute as to the fact of an agreement between two parties, neither party can become the judge in his own cause, or be allowed to take the Law into his own hands. In the present temper of the villagers in some parts of Nuddea an attempt of this nature might cause incalculable mischief.

No. 1082.

EXTRACT of paragraphs 1 to 4 forwarded for the information of the Inspector of Police Battalions in Bengal.

Copies of Messages forwarded by Electric Telegraph.

From the Secretary to Government of Bengal, Calcutta, to the Magistrate of Hooghly, (dated 20th March, 1860, 11 A. M.)

How many of the Police Battalion has Lieut. Baker at Hooghly, and how many men could he take to Kishnaghur? the ordinary Guards being taken by hired burkundauzes.

From Magistrate of Hooghly to Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

One hundred men are available if the Jail Guards are taken away: sixty without the Jail Guards, whom the Magistrate wishes to keep.

From A. R. Young Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to Sub-Lieutenant H. Baker, 4th Bengal Police Battalion, Hooghly,—(No. 1047, dated the 21st March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to request that you will proceed immediately with sixty men of the Detachment under your command to Kishnaghur, where your services are urgently required.

No. 1048.

Copy forwarded to the Inspector of Police Battalions for information.

From C. S. Belli, Esq., Magistrate of Hooghly, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 154, dated Hooghly the 22nd March 1860.)

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of Government that a Detachment of 60 men, with the usual complement of Non-Commissioned Officers of the 4th Bengal Police Battalion, left this afternoon for Kishnaghur, in obedience to the orders conveyed to Sub-Lieutenant Baker, in your letter to that Officer No. 1047, of yesterday's date.

2. It is expected that the Detachment will reach Kishnaghur on Saturday, the 24th instant.

From A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(dated the 21st March 1860.)

Sir,

Herewith I beg to submit in original the Nuddea Magistrate's third Weekly Report, dated the 18th instant.

2. I regret much to observe the remarks on the conduct of the Managers of the Loknathpore Concern, the interests of which cannot but suffer severely from their persistence in a course so unreasonable and so unsuited to the present crisis.

3. The dispositions of the Military Police Corps which have lately been made, will have a good effect in strengthening the Magistrate's hands, and impressing on the Ryots' minds the warning which Mr. Herschel

mentions his having found it necessary to convey to them. All non-planting landholders, having rents to collect in the villages in which excitement prevails, are equally interested with the Planter landholders in seeing the excitement cease.

4. I have heard from Mr. Skinner, who is encamped at Kaloopole Thannah, one of the points to which I have sent up a Detachment of Military Police, that the Joyrampore Putneedar has been instigating villagers well disposed to sow, to join others who have expressed their resolution not to do so. This kind of intimidation, as I informed Mr. Herschel some days ago, and as his Honor has since announced, is not to be tolerated. I at once telegraphed to Mr. Molony, who is by this time I hope in Mr. Skinner's camp, to take up and dispose of any tangible charge against the Putneedar. The latter has since been arrested and sent into Kishnaghur, where I have ordered him to be detained till I arrive there on Sunday next.

Third Weekly Report on the state of the Indigo Districts in Nuddea, from the 10th to 17th March 1860.

I HAVE this week visited the Damoorhoodah Sub-Division. The general impression is that the Ryots are much more determined here not to sow. The agitation is much stronger, and evidently better organized. The Mussulmans have the lead in the crowds, where their conduct is so much more passionate than are the *acts* of the Ryots, that I suspect the real leadership must be in the hands of Hindoos.

2. Mr. Maclean reports that October Plant is "suffering greatly by cattle trespass. The villagers have no specific complaints. The Khajoorah Factory burning has been examined by the Darogah, who reports it an accidental fire (the extent of it has been already reported to you.) Two nights after, a stable was burnt down. The charge of incendiarism was rashly made on the word of an ignorant Chowkeedar, who has since directly contradicted himself.

"The conduct of the Police has been much blamed in the public journals during the last fortnight, but a distinction should be made between village Chowkeedars and the Thanna Police. The co-operation of the former with the Ryots is described as misconduct on the part of

Note sent to Mr. Maclean.
"The Chowkeedars frequenty hold Indigo lands. This should be remedied. You should take up any reasonable information against Chowkeedars, and if proved punish them severely."

the latter. These are not proved to have taken part in any overt act; and on one recent occasion I have reason to believe that the firmness of a single Burkundauze prevented a disturbance at Lokenathpore. A Villager had been summoned to the factory to continue his daily work, which since the present difference he had discontinued. Having gone to the factory he was severely thrashed by two men, one of whom has been sentenced to imprisonment for a month, the other being acquitted for want of proof. Another old man was [immediately afterwards ?] literally dragged to the factory, there beaten, and finally released by the Burkundauze, who prevented the villagers already assembled from resorting to violence, and volunteered to release the man from the factory. This case is under trial."

Mr. Platts reports from Amghoopie that "the excitement has reached his Sub-Division. A strong demonstration was made by the Ryots against this factory. They dispersed without actually committing any act of violence, probably because the Planters were loading their guns; but, says Mr. Platts, the intention of the Ryots is not clearly established, and I would look on it as nothing but a strong demonstration. A servant of the factory was well thrashed."

3. The temper of the Europeans in the Loknathpore Concern is unfortunately aggressive, offering, I am glad to say, a marked contrast to that of the majority of Planters. Several of them have admitted the necessity of a reformation, and are now steering their course with prudence. Both Mr. Larmour and Mr. Forlong see that force is out of the question, and are endeavouring to maintain their position by showing consideration to the Ryots. Mr. Meares, of Loknathpore, refuses any the slightest concession, and the Ryots are proportionately exasperated. I do not myself hold them altogether free from suspicion of having set fire to the Khajoorah Verandah, which I have very little doubt *was* the act of an incendiary.

In regard to the Doodhpetley fire, I regret to say that Mr. Meares has shown no desire to remove the suspicion of the Ryots against the factory, a suspicion resting on grounds much stronger than in the Khajoorah case against the Ryots.

The Ryots do not prosecute, but I have directed Mr. Maclean to offer a reward of Rupees 100 for the discovery of the offender.

4. No further breach of the peace has occurred in any part of the District.

5. The conduct of the regular Police appears now to be fair. I have had no more complaints against any Police Officer from either side. The Police Officers with whom I have myself spoken describe the villagers as perfectly amenable to authority. But I doubt whether an order to sow Indigo would be obeyed now.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor's Proclamation was read out at Chooadangah to-day. The Ryots went away saying the order suited them, and they would not sow Indigo.

7. In speaking to the Ryots I have always found them shirk the question, "Have you taken advances?" Till lately, when pressed, they generally gave an absolute denial. Now they plead the injustice of the contract itself, saying they look on the money called advances by the factory as mere payment of their dues. Into this question I cannot of course enter. But neither can I help seeing and warning the Ryots that in taking this line they are guided by passion as much as by reason. I see also that many Zemindars and Putneedars are borrowing money now to meet the Quarter day; and complaints of the difficulty of collecting rents are beginning. Something appears to me necessary, I do not say from higher authority, but from the Police on the spot, to check the passion of the moment, and prevent its reaching the large population who have nothing to do with Indigo. I have not thought it safe to entrust this to any Darogah. The Native Police have orders *to act* up to their duty in preserving the peace, but not to discuss the question with the Ryots, referring them to Mr. Maclean or to myself, if the Proclamation be not enough.

I shall watch the effect of the present excitement on the Revenue closely, and let you have particulars after the 28th.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate

18*th March* 1860.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of the Nuddea Division,—(No. 1081, dated Fort William, the 22nd March 1860.)

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of yesterday's date, without number, submitting the Magistrate of Nuddea's third Weekly Report on

the state of his District, I am directed to inform you that instructions have been issued to Captain Miles, Commanding the 4th Police Battalion, to proceed at once to Alipore with the whole of his Battalion; and the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that Captain Raban, with the whole of the remainder of his Corps now at Head Quarters, should proceed immediately to such place in the District of Nuddea as you may think best, to be at hand in case of any actual disturbance unfortunately breaking out.

Copy of Message forwarded by Electric Telegraph.

From the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta, to Captain Miles, Midnapore,—(dated 22nd March 11-30 A. M.)

MARCH with all your available men to Oolabarriah, where, if possible, a steamer will meet you. If there is no Steamer, cross and march on to Alipore. Leave no Guard, except the Treasure Guard. The Magistrate must supply Burkundauzes for all other Guards. Telegraph when you will be at Oolabarriah.

From Major Miles, Midnapore, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta,—(dated 23rd March, 6-30 A. M.)

YOUR message of 11-30 A. M. yesterday only received at 9 P. M. We start to-night with some three hundred and twenty men, and will be at Oolabarriah on Monday morning the 26th.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department,—(No. 1108, dated Fort William, the 22nd March 1860.)

SIR,

THE Lieutenant-Governor directs me to report, for the information of the Hon'ble the President in Council, certain recent occurrences in some Districts of Lower Bengal, indicating great excitement in connection with the cultivation of Indigo; and to explain the mea-

sures which have been taken for preventing a breach of the peace, and for restoring order if any outbreak should unfortunately occur.

2. It will be seen, from the accompanying copy of correspondence, that, immediately upon his return to the Presidency on the 10th instant, the attention of the Lieutenant Governor was directed to reports regarding misunderstandings existing between Indigo Planters and the Ryots connected with Indigo Factories in some parts of the District of Nuddea, which were represented to be likely to lead to disagreeable consequences. The same subject was pressed upon the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor by a Petition of the Indigo Planters' Association, whereof a copy is enclosed, which was presented to him by a Deputation from that body, with whom he had an interview on the 13th instant. The Commissioner (Mr. Grote) very properly directed the Magistrate of the District to watch the progress of these disputes, and to report weekly any occurrences arising out of them. Three of these Weekly Reports have now been received, and from them the character of the excitement on this subject will be apparent.

3. The Petition of the Indigo Planters' Association prayed for two measures. The first of these was the issue of a Notification by Government, impressing upon the Ryots the duty of fulfilling their engagements. It was represented in this Petition, as well as in a letter of Mr. Grote's of the 13th instant, that this existing state of feeling of the Ryots had arisen partly out of a mistaken belief as to the views of the Government in regard to the cultivation of Indigo. Accordingly, the Lieutenant-Governor issued a Notification, which will be found with my letter to the Commissioner of the 14th instant, No. 926, with a view to the removal of any such erroneous impression. The Commissioner and District Officers have been strongly urged to spare no pains in impressing upon the villagers the duty of honestly fulfilling their agreements, and the ruinous consequences to themselves of a breach of agreement, if prosecuted for non-fulfilment; whilst also explaining that it is and was always optional with a Ryot to agree to cultivate Indigo or not, as best suited his own interest.

4. There was reason to suppose that these measures would have a good effect, inasmuch as orders in the same sense which had previously been passed by the Lieutenant-Governor on the Petition of certain Ryots, when published by the Commissioner, were reported to have had to some extent a good effect. But the Lieutenant-Governor thought it

advisable, in case of things taking a more serious turn than the local Officers seemed to anticipate, to have ready at hand, in the neighbourhood of those places in which the excitement is most prevalent, Detachments of the Police Battalions of such strength as might be expected to put down any riot or violent outbreak which might occur, and as far as possible to protect any persons or property that might be menaced. With this object four Detachments, with three European Officers, of the 6th Battalion of Bengal Military Police, were placed at the disposal of the Commissioner, to be posted in different parts of the District of Nuddea.

5. The second measure prayed for by the Indigo Planters' Petition was, that special legislation should be had recourse to, for the purpose of making the breach of an agreement to cultivate Indigo punishable summarily by a Magistrate. On this subject the Lieutenant-Governor put himself into communication with Mr. Sconce, the Legislative Member of Council for Bengal; and that gentleman is now prepared to introduce a Bill, providing (as a temporary measure, pending a full and searching inquiry into the practice of Indigo Planting in Bengal, which it is proposed to make after the present season of cultivation is closed and the present excited state of feeling has subsided) for the summary enforcement of existing engagements for the cultivation of Indigo. Three additional Officers, with Magisterial powers, have been sent to the Nuddea District, in order to the working out of this Law, if passed.

6. After the above arrangements had been made, the Lieutenant-Governor received this morning two telegrams, of which a copy is herewith submitted, together with a copy of a Report from the Commissioner of Rajshahye, No. 481, dated the 18th instant. From these it will be seen that the differences between the Planters and Ryots, which commenced in Nuddea, are now extending into the District of Moorshedabad; and there is reason to fear that they may have assumed there a more dangerous aspect. To prevent, as far as possible, any serious consequences, the Lieutenant-Governor has taken the following precautions :—

7. To supply the place of the Officer, now absent on leave, who is ordinarily stationed at Aurungabad, the Sub-Division in the Moorshedabad District where the danger seems greatest, the Lieutenant-Governor has appointed Mr. B. Wood (who is close at hand, and who is a very active Officer attached to the Sonthal Pergunnahs) to the charge of that

Sub-Division. Mr. Robinson, the Deputy Commissioner of those Pergunnahs, has been ordered to Moorshedabad to take charge of the Magistracy and Collectorate of that important District; and in the meanwhile, Mr. Beaufort, the Officiating Magistrate, who is about to leave on promotion, has been ordered to proceed himself to the disturbed parts of his District to the East of the River Bhaugiruttee, and to call on the Officer Commanding at Berhampore for any Troops that may be necessary to keep order in that part of his District which lies East of the Bhaugiruttee. Any Troops which may be required by Mr. Wood will be supplied from the 3rd Battalion, of which nearly 500 men, fortunately available, have been ordered to proceed by rail to Syntecah, and thence to march to any point where they may be wanted. Captain Pughe, who is in command of this Battalion, has been vested with the powers of a Magistrate. A communication has been made to the Railway Officers, in order, if possible, to push on this force by rail forty miles beyond Syntecah, which will place them within fourteen miles of the centre of the tract reported to be disturbed. Though the Railway is not open beyond Synteeah, the Lieutenant-Governor, from what he saw on his return the other day, has a strong hope that this may be done. The whole of the remainder of the 6th Bengal Military Police, with Captain Raban, the Commandant, has been ordered to proceed into the Nuddea District, and marches to-morrow. The 4th Battalion has been called up from Midnapore to replace them here, and to be available, if necessary, to reinforce the troops already in the Indigo Districts. A steamer has been despatched to bring them up from Oolabarriah. And an Officer with 100 men of the 2nd Battalion of Bengal Military Police, has been ordered from Rampore Bauleah to Maldah, in case of the excitement spreading to that District.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioners of Nuddea and Rajshahye,—(No. 1162-63, dated Fort William, the 24th March 1860.)

SIR,

THE Lieutenant-Governor considers it very essential that the objects with which Troops have been sent into some of the Districts of your Division should in no case be misunderstood; and that the Officers

Commanding Detachments sent in support of the Civil power should receive plain instructions, if required to act.

2. I am directed therefore to request that you will issue to the Magisterial Officers, at whose disposal any Military Force may be placed, such orders as may be necessary for their guidance generally, and specially with reference to local circumstances.

3. The general object in view is, of course, to repress any breach of the peace, and to disperse all assemblages likely to lead to a breach of the peace, apprehending the leading rioters. But it will also be specially incumbent on the Magistrates of Districts, where the present excitement relating to Indigo prevails, to protect effectually person and property in any Indigo factories that may be really in danger. The way to do this is to keep the country in the neighbourhood of such factories quiet; and this can be done by a small body of Military Police movable in that neighbourhood, whilst it could not be done by any reasonable number of men disposed in petty stationary Guards posted at the several factories. But if it should be advisable to place a small fixed Guard to protect any particular factory, such a Guard can always be provided from the District Police. On the other hand, it will be incumbent on Magistrates having Troops at their disposal, to prevent resort to the unlawful use of force on the part of any imprudent Planter, which in the present state of feeling would probably lead to disastrous consequences.

4. The Troops will, of course, obey the instructions of the Magistrates and Sub-Divisional Officers, to support whose authority they are sent. If a breach of the peace occur under the eyes of a body of Military Police, in the absence of any Magisterial Officer, the Commanding Officer will act, in order to its instant suppression, according to the best of his own judgment.

5. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Commandants of the Police Battalions from which Detachments have been sent into the disturbed Districts.

Nos. 1166 to 1168.

COPY forwarded to Captains Raban, Pughe, and Miles, for information and guidance.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.—(No. 1114, dated 23rd March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed by the Lieutenant Governor to request that orders may be issued for establishing a communication by Telegraph with Bongong, which can easily be effected by a junction with the Jessore line which passes very close to the Head Quarters of that Sub-Division.

2. It is of great importance that the Lieutenant Governor should at this particular period be in constant and speedy communication with this part of the country, in which the excitement regarding Indigo cultivation is most prevalent.

From W. GREY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Deputy Superintendent of Electric Telegraphs in India,—(No. 593, dated Council Chamber, the 24th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to forward to you an Extract (para. 1,) of a Home Department Elect. Telegraph. letter from the Government of Bengal, and to request that you will give effect to the wishes of the Lieutenant Governor with as little delay as possible, the special service for which the new telegraph communication is required being of a very emergent nature.

No. 647.

COPY forwarded to the Government of Bengal, with reference to Mr. Secretary Young's letter No. 1114, dated the 23rd Instant.

From D. J. MACNEILE, Joint Magistrate of Bongong, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta,—No, 3247,—(dated 30th March 1860.)

THE Telegraph Station at this place is established; the communication is open; the Sub-Division is quiet.

From A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 82Ct., dated Alipore, the 23rd March 1860.)

Sir,

As it is of importance that each of the Magistrates of Nuddea and Jessore should have a few Mounted Police at the present juncture, I have thought it expedient to direct the Magistrate of 24-Pergunnahs to send to Kishnaghur and Kaloopole respectively, a party of 3 men from the Suburban Force. I have authorized him to supply their place with others.

2. I have also ordered an European constable to go to Kishnaghur for temporary employment in the Magistrate's camp. This measure seems advisable in consequence of the Magistrate having found business impeded by crowds.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(No. 1188, dated the 24th March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to inform you in reply to your letter No. 82, dated the 23rd instant, that the Lieutenant-Governor approves of your instructions to the Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs to send a party of 3 of his Suburban Mounted Police force to the Magistrates of Nuddea and Jessore respectively, and a European Constable for temporary employment in the former Officer's camp.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department,—(No. 1148, dated the 24th March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to request that, with the permission of the Hon'ble the President in Council, the services of "the Lahore Horse" may be placed at the disposal of the Lieutenant-Governor for employment in the districts in which excitement prevails in connection with the cultivation of Indigo. Sowars will, in the Lieutenant Governor's opinion, be of great use there.

From Major F. D. ATKINSON, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department to the Deputy Quarter Master General of the Army,—(No. 1167, dated Fort William, the 24th of March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to request that you will move the General Officer Commanding the Presidency Division, to comply with the requisition of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for the services of the Lahore Light Horse, for employment in the Districts in which excitement prevails connected with the cultivation of Indigo.

2. The Officer Commanding the Regiment should be directed to place himself in immediate communication with Mr. Young, Secretary to Government of Bengal.

No. 1168.

Copy of the foregoing forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, for information.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to Captain Travers, Commandant Lahore Light Horse, Dum Dum, (No. 1196, dated 26th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to request that you will proceed with all possible despatch to Kishnaghur, with all the effective mounted men of your corps, and that you will report yourself on arrival there to Mr. Grote, whom you will find at that station, and from whom you will receive detailed instructions for your guidance.

The general object for which the force under your command is sent to Kishnaghur as a centre, is to preserve the peace of the Nuddea and the neighbouring districts from being broken. You will of course act on the requisition of the Magistrates of the several districts and of Mr. Grote, who is the Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of the Division comprising those districts.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Magistrates of Baraset and Nuddea.—(Nos. 1200 and 1201, dated Fort William, the 26th March 1860.)

SIR,

ABOUT one hundred of the Lahore Light Horse have been ordered to proceed on service into the Nuddea District, and will march from Dum-Dum to Kishnaghur as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made. I am to request that you will immediately cause the Nullah crossings on the route to Kishnaghur, and on the other main lines along which it may become necessary to send parties of these Horse, to be examined and put into good order.

No. 1202

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner of Nuddea for his information.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department,—(No. 1198, dated the 25th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to request that, with the permission of the Hon'ble the President in Council, instructions may be issued for the immediate preparation of the necessary Camp Equipage and Carriage, and that the requisite Commissariat arrangements may be made, for 100 men and horses of the Lahore Light Horse, which the Lieutenant Governor is desirous to send to the station of Kishnaghur as speedily as possible. The service, I am to observe, is urgent, and immediate despatch a great object.

From Major F. D. ATKINSON, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Deputy Quarter Master General of the Army, and to the Commissary General,—(Nos. 1212 and 1213, Fort William, the 26th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to transmit to you the annexed copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated 25th March 1860, soliciting the issue of instructions for the preparation of the necessary Camp Equipage and Carriage, and for the requisite Commissariat arrangements for 100 men and horses of the Lahore Light

Horse, which the Lieutenant Governor is desirous to send to the station of Kishnaghur, and to request that immediate arrangements may accordingly be made.

No. 1214.

COPY of the foregoing forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in reply to No. 1198 of the 25th instant, for information, and with an intimation that the order for the march of the Troops is sufficient authority for the Commissariat Department to supply immediately the Carriage, &c., required.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta,—(No. 1152, dated the 24th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to request that you will be so good as to send six good European Constables to Kishnaghur, and, if possible, four others to Moorshedabad, four to Jessore, and two to Baraset. The men should be directed to proceed to those Stations with all possible dispatch, and to report themselves to the Magistrate of the Districts, under whose orders they will act.

No. 1153.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Commissioner of Nuddea.

No. 1154.

Ditto to Commissioner of Rajshahye.

From S. WAUCHOPE, ESQ., Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No 190, dated Fort William, the 26th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that in obedience to the instructions in your letter No. 1152, of the 24th instant, I sent that night and next morning four Police Serjeants and twelve Constables to Kishnaghur,

Moorshedabad, Jessore and Baraset. The two men who proceeded to Baraset have however been sent back with a letter from the Deputy Magistrate in charge, who states that he has no place in which they can be accommodated.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea—(No. 1184, dated the 24th March 1850.)

SIR,

I AM directed to inform you that the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to vest the three Officers transferred to Nuddea on the 21st instant with the powers of Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector in the Districts of Jessore and Baraset, as well as in Nuddea, in order that you may station them wherever their services may be required.

Mr. W. V. C. Taylor,
„ W. L. Mackenzie.
„ C. G. D. Betts.

From A. GROTE, ESQ., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 83Ct., dated Allipore, the 23rd March 1860.)

SIR,

YESTERDAY I received a letter from Mr. Skinner, Officiating Joint Magistrate of Jessore, in which he reports that after reading the late Government Notification to a number of Ryots who came to his tent at Kaloopole on the 18th instant, he proceeded to arrest certain parties whom he thought it necessary to bind over to keep the peace, and put them in charge of some Burkundauzes. "Directly they began to move off," adds Mr. Skinner, "the rest of the villagers set up a shout and attempted to release them. They further abused me and my Police, and the Kaloopole Darogah was almost assaulted. The men, however, were taken off by the Burkundauzes and sent to Jessore at once, as further proceedings at Kaloopole would have been impossible, there being no force nor means of detention."

2. The Darogah and the whole Police Force present, including the village Chowkeedars, behaved very well on this occasion.

3. The Detachment under Lieutenant Howard should reach Kaloopole in the course of to-morrow, or day after to-morrow. Mr. Molony will have joined Mr. Skinner's Camp the day before yesterday, and I have

directed him to take vigorous measures to bring to punishment the leaders of the mob who resisted Mr. Skinner.

4. Lieutenant Duff's party should have reached Damoorhoodah yesterday. I have a demi-official from Mr. Maclean dated yesterday, in which he informs me that no disrespect whatever has been shown to Police authority in his Sub-Division. There had been some ferment in Mr. Herschel's tent at Chitoll when the Notification was read, and as this was attributed to Mr Forlong's presence, Mr. Herschel thought it necessary to ask him to retire. In doing this, it seems to me Mr. Herschel did not show his usual judgment, for any concession by the Authorities to mob clamour at the present moment is of course to be deprecated.

P. S.—With reference to your letter No. 1081, dated the 22nd instant, I beg to state for the information of Government, that I yesterday requested Captain Raban to march with all his remaining available force to Kishnaghur, from which centre I can detach him wherever he is most wanted.

2. He leaves to-day with 60 men, all that he can muster till Captain Miles' Corps comes to relieve his standing Guards, when about 100 more men will follow.

3. I have this moment received the enclosed original letter, dated 21st instant, from the Magistrate, which I beg may be returned. With reference to its 14th para. it might be well to warn the Wing of a Regiment at Barrackpore to be ready for service—but I believe that the Military Police parties now in the field will prove sufficient to check any tendency on the part of the villagers to become aggressive. If the proposed Bill pass to-morrow, the first feeling on the latter's part will doubtless be one of disappointment and indignation, and for this I am quite prepared.

4. The present Military arrangements may be summarized as follows:

Lieutenant Howard with 50 men, at Kaloopole.

Jemadar Sobhan Khan with 53 men, at Bongong.

Lieutenant Duff with 80 men, at Damoorhoodah.

Lieutenant Robertson with 50 men, at Meherpore.

Captain Raban with the remainder of his Corps (about 150) and Lieutenant Baker of 4th Battalion with 100 (I believe, but the Government orders went direct to that Officer) at Kishnaghur.

Major Miles' Head Quarters from Midnapore to relieve Captain Raban at Alipore.

5. There are thus 230 men actually out, and a reserve at Kishnaghur of 250, wherefrom to draw fresh parties. More, in my opinion, is not wanted at present.

From W. J. HERSCHEL, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Nuddea, to the Commissioner of Circuit, Nuddea Division,—(No. 84, dated Nuddea, the 21st March 1860.)

SIR,

Having returned from Damoorhooda this morning, I have the honor to submit a special report on the present state of the District.

2. During the time I was there, I heard nothing from the South of the District to cause any doubts as to the continuance of peace. On the 19th I received a note from Mr. Larmour, saying that his Assistant Mr. Campbell had been again driven away by the villagers with a threat that his head would be broken if he came again. From the Thannah, I hear that Mr. Campbell's Ameen had reported that on going to measure lands (I know they took no force with them) two villagers had come out and warned Mr. Campbell off. Mr. Campbell has made no complaint. While on the spot I had told Mr. Larmour and the Ryots that if the Assistants went to measure and they ordered them off they must go. I consider that Mr. Campbell was testing the feelings of the Ryots, and that the latter had learnt a proper lesson from the punishment lately inflicted, and had strictly obeyed me in simply warning Mr. Campbell off.

3. I have to-day received a report from the Goburdangah Darogah dated 20th, to the effect that he requires more Police Burkundauzes.*

* He reports that the Proclamation has been received there with hesitation, and that he finds it difficult to maintain due respect by this authority. I have to-day written to him that with the support of the Police Battalion now *en route* to Bongong, he will find that if he attends to my late order imposing absolute silence on the Police as to the exposition of the Proclamation he will find the Ryots attentive and obedient.

4. The North is hotter. My demi-officials will have informed you that the Proclamation has been eagerly received, and that the Ryots take their stand upon it.

5. I have also mentioned that on one occasion, in receiving petitions, a party who wished to put in a razeenama were swept away by the crowd, and that Mr. Maclean had to go among them to set them free. I have also mentioned that on the 19th, when closing Cutcherry and preparing to take petitions, a note from Mr. Skinner, brought by a peon

from his Camp, informed me that he had arrested some of a crowd who got uproarious in front of his tent, and that the arrest was not easily effected. That at the same time one of the principal Ryots of Joyrampore was brought up before Mr. Maclean under arrest on a warrant from Jessore, which is complained of as illegal and unnecessarily severe. That on taking petitions the crowd got excited at seeing one Gopee Dutt, Mr. Forlong's Gomashta, a man detested by the Ryots, standing among my Amlah, and that the noise becoming too great to be heard, and happening not to have any Police with me that day, I had to disperse the assembly by first sending the Planter's party away and then by distributing copies of the Proclamation. The crowd were a good deal excited also at some villagers who put in razeenamas. They were restrained by their own leaders, but broke up very slowly.

6. I have now to report that I remained till next evening (yesterday) to watch the result of this, having meanwhile sent orders to Kishnaghur for 50 men to march out of their lines ready to start at three hours' notice, under Lieutenant J. Duff. Better arrangements were made for receiving petitions and distributing the Proclamation, and though the crowd was an unusually large one, it behaved throughout (in the presence of two Burkundazes and yesterday's Chaprassees) with as much order and respect as in the Sudder Station.

7. I learnt yesterday from Greeschunder, 1st grade Darogah, that the arrest of the Joyrampoor Putneedar had been effected with perfect ease in the day-time. By an accident he had been sent back from Camp to the Darogah at Joyrampore to be forwarded to Jessore. His friends came and asked for his release on bail, which I refused as beyond my power to grant, but after the occurrences at Kaloopole and my own Camp that evening, I did not feel sure how far the Joyrampore Ryots might be tempted on his re-appearance. I therefore sent an order to the Darogah to send him into Kishnaghur, pending a reference to Mr. Skinner for bail. This order has completely removed the irritation in Joyrampore.

8. I yesterday received a note from Mr. Hoyle, a Railway employee. He complains of his being made to suffer for the fault of the Indigo Planters, his supplies being stopped by the villagers. I regret this, as I had noticed with pleasure that the Railway Authorities had been remarkably impartial in their conduct. Passing up the line the other day, I noticed especially the quiet and contented behaviour of the Railway coolies.

9. During the last three days also several letters have been received from Planters, stating that their servants have been prevented from going to the villages to collect rents, and, as I stated in my last, it is certain that many of them have had to borrow money for the Government demand.

10. The reports of villagers assembling are also more numerous than before, and the circumstances reported by the Police are not absolutely free from an aggressive tendency.

11. I have not hitherto laid very much stress on these assemblies, nor on the unproved statements of Planters. I have endeavoured to form my opinion solely on proved facts, and from them to judge the proper moment for the exhibition of military force. I now think the moment has arrived.

12. The Ryots though settled in their determination not to sow, have I think fell a check to a violence which was beginning to exhibit itself, and all that now remains to be done is, I think, to support the cause of order by a more than usually imposing force. I say more than usually because I cannot conceal from myself that the passion of the day, though checked among the Ryots, still exists; and that the Planters, who have hitherto been deterred from the open use of force by the hopelessness of the attempt, have lately shown signs of despair.

13. I have deferred proposing this measure later perhaps than I would have done had it not been for the unfortunate fact that Government was believed to have an interest in the question other than it really has. To send out Military immediately on the issue of the Proclamation would, I am sure, have been misunderstood; I had hoped still to have put this application off for a few more days, but I do not think it safe.

14. In proportion as I have deferred it, so also must be the force now shown, and I would therefore recommend that not less than 500 of the Military Police be placed at my disposal immediately, and that preparations be made for throwing 500 more into the Zillah on a further call, also that 100 Cavalry be sent to me as early as possible. They will be of more use than 500 Infantry; 75 men of the 6th Bengal Military Police leave to-night for Damoorhoodah, which they will reach to-morrow morning.

15. I enclose copy of a vernacular Order just issued to the Police.

16. I have indented for a large supply of copies of the Proclamation.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division,—(No. 1211, dated the 26th March 1860.

Sir,

I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 83Ct., dated the 23rd instant with its enclosure, reporting certain occurrences in Jessore and Nuddea connected with the existing excitement in those Districts.

2. The Lieutenant Governor desires that you will cause to be conveyed to the Kaloopole Darogah and to his Police his satisfaction at their good conduct on the occasion of the arrest and attempted rescue of certain persons whom the Magistrate Mr. Skinner had ordered to be sent into the Station. If the Darogah's official character is generally good, you are authorized to promise him early promotion in recognition of his good behaviour; and you will be so good as to bestow a suitable money reward to the Police Burkundauzes and the village Chowkeedars whose good conduct you have reported.

3. Had the prisoners been rescued and had Mr. Skinner been forced to retire, the consequences might have been very bad. This occurrence shows the necessity of giving every Magisterial officer, acting alone, in this time of excitement, a small body of Military Police to be at hand to support his authority and to enforce the execution of his orders. You will be so good as to arrange accordingly.

4. With reference to the letter from Mr. Herschel, the Officiating Magistrate of Nuddea, to your address, No. 84, dated the 21st Instant, I am to inform you that Sub-Lieutenant Baker, with a party of 60 men of the Detachment of the 4th Police Battalion under his command at Hooghly and all the available men of the 6th Battalion, have been already sent into the Nuddea District. Application has likewise been made for troops from Barrackpore for the immediate relief of Captain Raban's Guards consisting of somewhat more than 100 men on duty in Calcutta, and as soon as these men are relieved they will be sent also to the same District. By this means Nuddea and its borders will have been supplied with about 500 men of the 6th and 60 men of the 4th Police Battalion.

5. It appears to the Lieutenant Governor that Jessore is not sufficiently supplied with Military Police, but Major Miles and the Head Quarters of the 4th Battalion are expected at the Presidency from

Midnapore this evening. On their arrival a Detachment of them will be sent immediately to Mr. Molony in Jessore.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor has obtained from the Government of India the services of the Lahore Light Horse, about 100 strong, now at Dum-Dum, and this force will be sent immediately to the Districts where the excitement prevails. There are no more horse in Bengal. Two troops of Adlam's Police Sowars have been called down from Behar, but they cannot be in Bengal for some days.

7. The original enclosure of your letter is herewith returned as requested.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commandant of the 4th Bengal Police Battalion,—(No. 1252, dated the 27th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed by the Lieutenant Governor to request that you will immediately send for Lieutenant Smith of your Battalion from Burdwan, and instruct him to proceed with 50 men to join Mr. Molony, the Magistrate of Jessore, who is in the neighbourhood of Kaloopole. Lieutenant Smith should be directed to march viâ Bongong, where probably he will receive instructions from Mr. Molony. If not he will proceed on towards Kaloopole and will hear from Mr. Molony on the road.

No. 1253-4.

Copy forwarded to the Inspector of Police Battalions for information.
Ditto to the Commissioner of Nuddea for ditto.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Magistrate of Jessore,—(No. 1259, dated the 27th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to forward for your information a copy of a letter this day addressed to the Commandant of the 4th Bengal Police Battalion, from which you will observe that a Detachment of that Battalion has been ordered to join you as speedily as possible. You will be so good as to send instructions to meet the Officer Commanding this Detachment at Bongong if possible.

From A. GROTE, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 1, dated, Kishnaghur, the 26th March 1860.)

SIR,

I BEG to submit herewith the Magistrate of Nuddea's 4th Weekly report, dated 26th instant and an extract as follows from a demi-official dated yesterday, from Mr. Molony, who is now ecamped at Soobodhee in Thannah Kaloopole. :—

"I have just returned from a ride in and about what Skinner considered "the worst villages when he came out. There was none of the excitement "that he mentions and the people all appeared to be engaged in their "usual pursuits. They are evidently wavering and don't exactly know what "they will do yet; they informed me that they had sent a deputation "to Calcutta some three or four days ago, and that they were perfectly "ready to obey the Government orders to sow if it was given. I explained "to them that if they were under advances they must of course be expect-"ed to work them off, and that Government could not possibly approve "of their present attempt to break existing engagements. They behaved "in a very orderly and quiet manner, quite different from what they did "when Skinner came. It seemed to me that they had committed them-"selves to a line of conduct under the false representation of the "wishes of Government, and did not first know how to back out of it. "They said they thought they must do as others, and alluded to the "Burogram." (Jyrampore). They all had the same answer at first when "asked whether they were going to sow *Das jun jaha kore taha amora "koribo*, which showed that they looked somewhere for an example."

2. I am quite satisfied with the arrangements which have been made. Captain Raban has been requested to fill up from Head Quarters the number of men who have been drafted from Lieut. Duff's party to Haut Boleah, where there is some public money in the Camp of the Superintendent of Nuddea rivers.

3. The Magistrate is right to watch the proceedings of the several parties named in his report. I have myself warned Baboo Sham Chunder Pal Chowderee. The appearance of the new Law will, I expect, put an end to all further agitation.

4. The Darogah has not yet reported the result of his enquiries into the complaint of Mr. Hoyle the Railway Engineer. The demonstration which caused him to leave his Camp was not in any way directed against him.

P. S.—May I request the return of the original enclosures of this and previous letters.

4th. Weekly Report on the state of the Indigo districts in Nuddea, for the week ending 24th March 1860.

SINCE the date of my special report nothing whatever has occurred (so far as reported) in disturbance of the peace. I recapitulate the events of the week. From the South of the district reports are now favorable. During the first part the Darogah reported that he was not treated with the respect that he looked for, and that the Proclamation was not attended to. Mr. Larmour's letters were to the same effect. The tone of these reports changed towards the latter part of the week. The Ryots being reported quieter and conciliatory.

2. From the North the occurrences during the first part of the week were rather more serious than hitherto and some symptoms of unvileness on the part of the Ryots began to shew themselves. On Monday I was obliged to break up Cutcherry in consequence of the violent demeanour of the crowd towards Mr. Forlong's Amlah. The crowd numbered considerably above a thousand and being unattended save by my Cutcherry peons, I did not think it prudent to run a risk of a rescue similar to that incurred by the Joint Magistrate of Jessore with a Darogah at his side.

3. The next day a still larger crowd assembled but the presence of two thannah burkundazes and a better arrangement of proceedings maintained perfect order. The principal speakers too among the Ryots absented themselves.

4. On receipt of Mr. Skinner's letter on the 19th I had directed Lieutenant Duff to hold himself in readiness to march with 50 men to Damoorhoodah; on the 20th I received a letter there from Mr. Hoyle a Railway Engineer, shewing that he was also being drawn into the quarrel, his supplies having been stopped by the neighbouring village and he himself having left the place. This determined me to order out the Military police and to apply for reinforcements which I did on my arrival in the station on the 21st. Lieutenant Duff I found had the same day received orders from yourself to march out 80 men to Damoorhoodah and he left with them that evening camping near Damoorhoodah next day.

5. There are four or five men in the zillah whose conduct I have been watching from some time past. They are Syam Chunder Pal Choudhery of Ranaghât, who having a quarrel with Mr. Larmour has been using his power as Zumeendar to prevent his Ryots from sowing for Mr. Larmour. This example has acted unfavourably on the neighbourhood, and particulary in Habeebul Hosain, another Zemindar. The latter has

now withdrawn his opposition. On a report from Mr. Maclaen stating that the leader of the Joyrampore Ryots, Ramrutton Moulik has been down to the house of Sregopal (meaning probably Syamchunder) I sent to have him, and, if Syamchunder was in the house, him also arrested. The Darogah reports neither of them to have been there but to hold Syamchunder in check. I have sent the Deputy Magistrate of Santipore to Ranaghat with orders to arrest Syam Chunder on the first signs of intrigue being carried on.

6. The next is Ramruttun Moulick, the man whose conduct is complained of by the Jessore Authorities. Their grounds of complaint have not been communicated to me, and I can only say, therefore, that the warrant issued against him and two of his brothers is being executed, one of the three having been arrested. The influence of these men is considerable, and both Mr. Maclean and his Police are watching them most carefully, but hitherto nothing tangible has turned up. I have requested Mr. Molony to let me know what evidence has been obtained. They are Putneedars of Joyrampore and the Lockenathpore Concern holds under them as Izaradars and between the two there is a quarrel.

7. The third is Brindabun Sirkar a man generally described as pugnacious. He has a quarrel with Mr. Clarke, of Khalbolea, whose Ryots have so far remained indifferent spectators of the disputes going on elsewhere. No particular charge is preferred except opposition to Mr. Clarke, and I have no reason to suppose that he has any other object than the preservation of his own interests. His conduct, however, is also being closely watched.

8. The fourth is Rammohun Moiter, of Meherpore, a released prisoner, whom Mr. Platts has already received orders to arrest on the first indication of intreague. He is, I think, a more dangerous character than Brindabun Sirkar.

9. There is one other man whose motions are being observed, Mohesh Chunder Chatterjee, a Sirkar of Ram Rutton, Royt of Jessore. This man speaks English, and is a man of considerable educaion and notoriety. He would be, I think, most dangerous of the five as a leader, but he is behaving cautiously, and Mr. Maclean is quite aware of the importance of watching him at Damoorhooda.

10. On the whole, I think a warning attitude is all that is absolutely required in dealing with these men, and that severe measures are likely to add to the difficulties of giving fair play to the new Law.

11. At the same time I am prepared on the first proof of continued activity on their side to place the offenders under arrest.

12*th*. The Villagers require rougher treatment and I have prohibited their moving more than five together from one village to another.

13*th*. I have now the following force posted as below:—

	Men.	Subadar.	Jemadars.	Havildars.	Naiks.
In the Station, Capt. Raban, ...	77	...	2	5	6
„ Lieut. Baker, ...	62	1	2	4	4
At Damoorhoodah, Lieut. Duff, ...	80	...	1	6	3
„ Meherpoor, Lieut. Robertson,...	50	...	1	3	3
„ Bongong, Soubhadar Sobhan Khan, ...	50	...	...	3	3
	319	1	6	19	19

P. S.—I enclose Mr. Maclean's report (copy) giving some additional particulars.

W. J. Herschel,
Officiating Magistrate.

26*th March* 1860.

Weekly Report on the State of the Indigo Districts, from March 17th to 24th, Sub-Division of Damoorhoodah.

Thannah Hurdee.

A demonstration was made on the night of the 16th March, by the villagers of Kalidosspore, Kumulpore and Gobinpore, a preliminary inquiry by the Naib Darogah imputed the proceeding on the part of

the Ryots to an impression that the Factory of Paikpara against which the demonstration was made, had seized their cows. I, however, directed the Darogah to inquire personally into the case, and also the facts alluded to by Mr. Hoyle, of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

Mr. Tripp, of Bamondee, complained that his suty stack at Akubpore was destroyed by a fire, the work of incendiaries. The charge was made against the Kusakondee Villagers, but as I learn from the Police reports only suspicion and no proof is offered by the Factory.

The Northern part of this Thannah is rather unsettled, and I have therefore requested Lieutenant Duff to detach a Native Officer, and 30 men to Hat Bolia, a position from which any portion of the Bamondee and Doorgapore or Joradoh Concerns can be speedily reached.

THANNAH DAMOORHOODAH.

This Thannah has settled down. The petitions are now comparatively few, and I have heard of no assemblages of any sort. Lieutenant Duff, and 60 men are stationed at Damoorhoodah.

THANNAH DOWLUTGUNGE.

A few villages in this Thannah are connected with the league supposed to exist. Their behaviour, however, has not been in any way opposed to public tranquility. I do not think that the state of these Thannahs is on the whole less satisfactory than at the close of last week. No attempts have been made on either side to resort to force, and I am confident that the presence of the Police Battalion, together with the operation of the anticipated Law, will restore these Districts to their usual quiet.

During the past week, the Joint Magistrate of Jessore sent a warrant for the arrest of 3 of the principal Joyrampore Putnidars. Ram Rutton, Rammohun and Greesh Mouliks. The two former have eluded capture, though on my visit to Joyrampore they both came freely to my tent. They are charged with intention to break the peace, but I am not aware from any facts brought to my knowledge, that they have done more than foment the quarrel between the factory and the Ryots. This was I believe at first done on private grounds and without any idea that the movement would attain its present dimensions.

(Signed) A. T. MACLEAN,

The 24th March 1860. *Assistant Magistrate.*

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(No. 1275, dated the 27th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1 of yesterday's date, submitting reports from the Magistrates of Nuddea and Jessore, regarding the present state of those parts of the two Districts in which the Indigo excitement prevails, and the measures taken by those officers to settle the minds of the Ryots and to prevent any disturbance. These reports are satisfactory.

With reference to what is remarked about the new Law the Lieutenant Governor trusts that its effects will be as good as it is anticipated that they will be. But it is quite possible that in some places the Law may disappoint some cultivators, whose minds for a moment may become irritated and excited; and it is absolutely necessary that whenever there is the least chance of this, a party of horse or of the Military Police (and a very small party indeed is seen to be always enough for one place) must be near at hand. In a case of this nature, seeing the sort of people and the sort of feeling, we have to deal with, it is an object not only to be prepared, but to show that we are in every quarter. There is now an adequate force in the excited Districts, or on the way to them; and if this force is properly distributed, the preservation of order may be regarded as secured.

The Lieutenant Governor desires that you will carefully avoid the error of clubbing a comparatively large body of men, whether of horse or foot, at one place, such for example as Kishnaghur. For the sort of effect required at present a much larger number of men at Kishnaghur than suffices for the protection of the neighbourhood of that spot, would not be very much more useful than at Calcutta.

A party of the Lahore Horse which has been ordered to proceed to Kishnaghur must be detached to be at the disposal of the Magistrate of Jessore.

You are of course aware that the new Law must be worked, not only or mainly at Sudder Stations, but in the interior and in the neighbourhood of every place where recourse to it is at all likely to be had by Planters, or where Planters are at all likely to attempt unlawful violence in order to avoid the necessity of having recourse to it.

The original enclosures of your letter are herewith returned.

From A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William—(No. 85Ct., dated Allipore, the 3rd April 1860.)

Sir,

I beg to submit herewith the Nuddea Magistrate's last Weekly Report on the state of his District. This brings up his narrative to the 31st, on which date I left Kishnaghur.

2. I directed Mr. Herschel to issue an order to the effect explained in his 4th para. I found that in several cases of maltreatment of factory servants, the latter were handed over to the Police on a charge sometimes to the effect merely that they had been found trespassing in the village. The impression on the villagers' part that the factory people had no business in their villages was the consequence in some measure of the Muddud Purwanahs which the Magistrates were in the habit of issuing on the Ryots' petitions some months ago.

3. During the week that I have been at Kishnaghur I have seen several of the leading Planters of the District. None of these gentlemen apprehend any aggressive act on the part of the villagers or admit that there are grounds for such apprehensions.—Who are the writers of the alarming and exaggerated reports which from time to time appear in the public papers I could not ascertain? Residents at the Kishnaghur Station, I found, knew nothing of many of the occurrences therein communicated till the Calcutta papers came in.

4. Some of the Nundunpore Ryots petitioned me to the purport of the petitions so many of which have been before Government. The Ryots, who were perfectly tractable and reasonable, denied stoutly that they were under advance, and asserted earnestly their wishes to abandon their connexion with the factory as an unprofitable one. The effect of the order just published in accordance with your letter dated 27th ultimo, No. 1273, which directs the Police to explain to the people the provisions of the new Law, will probably be to make all these parties sow Indigo for this year, but the very coercion which is now as a special measure being applied, will make their aversion to Indigo cultivation stronger than ever.

5. The Planters quite see this, and all those gentlemen that I have met are prepared for a reform of the present system.

6. I take this opportunity of submitting in original a letter from Mr. Collis, with its enclosure from Mr. Meares, which the former gentle-

man has requested me to lay before Government with reference to the remarks made on Mr. Meares' conduct in the Nuddea Magistrate's Weekly Report dated 18th ultimo. I have not that report before me to refer to, but if Mr. Herschel omitted in it to mention that Mr. Meares had offered 200 Rupees to the Doodhpettee villagers it was either from inadvertence or because he considered the offer inadequate, which he did. He accepted perhaps too readily the statement of the villagers as to the amount of property destroyed by the fire.

7. Mr. Molony's demi-official daily reports have throughout the week been favourable. He has warrants out against one or two parties, who have he thinks committed themselves by collecting money from the villagers with a view to carrying on the agitation against Indigo cultivation.

5th Weekly Report on the State of the Indigo Districts in Zillah Nuddea, for the Week ending 31st March 1860.

The District has been comparatively quiet throughout the week.

2. My Sub-Divisional reports are not yet in; they will contain nothing beyond what I can now report, except details of a few slight encounters between the two parties, principally on the question of cattle trespass, or of attachment of crops or other zemindaree matters.

3. The result in, I believe, every case has been that the Planters' servants have been beaten or sent prisoners to the Thannah, but in no case has any dangerous bodily harm been done. (In one, which occurred last week, a Pyadah had his eyebrow cut open and four teeth knocked out.)

4. This result however has compelled me to issue an order to the Police which shall at all events enable a Planter as Zemindar to send his servants into a village without the certainty of their heads being broken. I have no fear that the order will be abused. The Ryots have clearly exceeded their rights in ejecting the agents of their Landlords, and the latter have a clear claim to the support of the Police.

5. Mr. Platts at Kurreempore mentions in a semi-weekly letter that Mr. Sibbald had reported one riotous assembly, and the accounts from Mr. Tripp's villages are taking the same form as has been the case in almost every Concern hitherto. But these are the only two places in which the feeling is reported hotter than before. This, I believe, is only because it began there later. In all other directions it is cooling down.

In the South indeed everything is reported as quiet as usual, and the Ryots are said to be prepared to sow, but from Mr. MacNeil I hear that petitions are being put in by the Ryots. The prospect of a settlement there, though not certain, is decidedly hopeful.

6. The villages in Mr. Tripp's line engage at present the most attention, and a party under Lieutenant Robertson of 30 men has been marched from Mehurpore to Bamoondee in consequence, and a similar party from Dahmoorhoodah under a Jemadar to Hât-Boleah. The reports of the last two days are more favorable.

7. The Planters have to some extent been engaging lattials lately, but I am confident that the object of this has been merely self-protection, and that in the presence of the Military a number of men will be dismissed.

8. Some of the leading men among the Ryots have been in to the station at my call, and have engaged to quiet their followers. Ramrutton has not yet been caught, though twice traced apparently to and from Calcutta. The Joyrampore villagers say they will pay up the penalty rather than sow. This they may perhaps do, as Mr. Meares tells me their cash advances at present are very small, but I doubt whether the example will be followed on a large scale.

9. Mr. Platts has obtained direct proof of instigation against one man whom he has arrested in consequence. I shall report on this case when completed.

10. The new Law will commence working on the first petition. Mr. Mackenzie has joined at Hadrah. Mr. Taylor will be at Dahmoorhoodah on Wednesday. Mr. Betts has gone to Jessore.

11. The following is the present disposition of the forces in camp in this Zillah :—

BENGAL MILITARY POLICE.

Damoorhoodah,	80	Men	under	Lieut. Duff.
Hat-Boleah, Mr Tripp's line, ...	30	,,	,,	Jemadar.
Bamoondee, ditto ditto, ...	30	,,	,,	Lieut. Robertson.
Meherpore, ...	50	,,	,,	Jemadar.
Hadrah, ...	60	,,	,,	Lieut. Baker.
Bongong, ...	50	,,	,,	Soubdr. Soobhan Khan.
	300			

LAHORE LIGHT HORSE.

March tomorrow as below.

Damoorhoodah, ...	30	Sabres	under	Capt. Travers, with staff.
Soobdhee, in Jessore,	30	,,	,,	Lieut.
Kurreempore, ...	20	,,	,,	Lieut.
Kishnaghur, ...	20	,,	,,	Serjeant, at my own disposal.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate

KISHNAGHUR,
1*st April* 1860.

From S. E. COLLIS, Esq., to A. GROTE, Esq., Commissioner of Nuddea,—(dated Calcutta, the 31st March 1860.)

SIR,

WITH reference to the assertion made by Mr. Herschel to you of the state of the District from the 17th to the 24th of March, which was read out on Saturday last at the meeting of the Legislative Council, and which is as follows—"In regard to the Doodhpettee fire I regret to say that Mr. Meares has shown no desire to remove the suspicion of the Ryots against the factory, a suspicion resting on grounds much stronger than in the Kadjoora case against the Ryots,"—I have the honor to forward an extract of a letter from Mr. Meares to me. I have also just received a letter from Mr. Tweedie, the Manager of the Lokenauthpore Division of the Concern, in which he states as follows: "At this season the Ryots are in the habit day and night of burning the chaff and refuse of their cold weather crop, and they are most careless as to the spot chosen for doing so, usually just where it happens to be: the consequence is that fires are frequent, and were the factory people to be responsible for them all, they would be in constant hot water." As to Mr. Meares giving no assistance in the matter, he distinctly told Mr. Herschel he would give 1,000 Rs. to find out the culprit, and would give the Ryots 200 Rs. to assist them in building up their houses. Mr. Tweedie goes on to state, "as to the number of houses burnt, only six Ryots' houses were burnt and every little outhouse and cow-shed must have been counted to make up the exaggerated number 28." Mr. Tweedie fur-

ther states the sum of Rs. 5,000 put down as the loss supposed to have been sustained by the Doodhpettee Ryots is a gross exaggeration.

As the assertion of the Magistrate has been published, and is likely if uncontradicted to do Mr. Meares a serious injury, it is due to him to have his statement of the case heard. I have therefore to request you will forward a copy of this letter and enclosure to his Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal.

Extract from Mr. Meares' letter, dated Lokenathpore, 27th March 1860.

I NOT only offered Rs. 1000 to find out who had burnt the houses or who had instigated the burning of them, but I offered the Ryots Rs. 200 to rebuild the houses. This I did to Mr. Herschel in Mr. Tweedie's presence. I understand there were not more than 20 houses burnt, if that, and I feel sure none of our people had anything to say to the burning, and when I made the offer of Rs. 200 I thought it was very liberal seeing how badly the Ryots were behaving. Fires occur every week during the month of March, and if the factory servants are to be made responsible for them all, they will have enough to bear. I have inquired into the case, and as I said before I do not believe that any of our people had anything to say to the case.

Telegraph Message From D. J. MACNEIL ESQ., to the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, Calcutta,—(Bongong, the 8th April 1860.)

Riot just reported at Narainpoor in Bhagda, 24 miles off. Arrested persons rescued from the Police. I start immediately with Military Police for the place.

From A. GROTE, ESQ., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 90Ct., dated Allipore, the 10th April 1860.)

SIR,

I BEG to lay before his Honor the Lieutenant Governor the Nuddea Magistrate's 6th Weekly Report dated the 9th instant.

2. I fear Mr. Maclean's health is again beginning to fail; the heat in tents just now must be trying. I hope arrangements may soon be made for constructing the Sub-Divisional buildings at Damoorhoodah as well as at Bongong.

2. A daily return will be made to me by each officer of adjudications under the new Bill, and next week I shall probably be able to show how this is working. As I have stated in a previous letter, I do not think that there will be many awards, and the Planters are right not to press for them, if they see a likelihood of their lands being sown without coercion.

3. The Jessore Magistrate's reports are favourable. He also anticipates very few cases under the new Bill.

4 I have no particulars yet from Mr. MacNeil of the riot in Thannah Bagdah, which he yesterday reported by Telegraph.

6th Weekly Report of the State of the Indigo Districts in Zillah Nuddea, for the Week ending 7th April 1860.

Under the new Law several cases of destruction of Indigo have been taken up and punishment has followed.

The Ryots in the South of the District have declared themselves ready to sow, and it is only in the North that they hold out. This is partly owing to the fact that Mr. Maclean has found it impossible to make head against the amount of work thrown on him. I was obliged to return to Damoorhoodah accordingly on Wednesday. I took Mr. Taylor up with me, and on examining Mr. Maclean's file of cases found that in fact the machinery of justice had become clogged. I assumed charge of the Office for three days, during which I struck off all cases the decision of which was not imperative, and distributed the remainder among Mr. Taylor, stationed at Hât-Boleah, Mr. Maclean at the Sub-Division, and Mr. Betts, whom I detained for this purpose. The number of Collectory cases instituted by the Planters has also added enormously to the work on hand. Mr. Maclean is in no way to blame.

The Ryots generally are awaiting the first decisions under the Law. The Planters are averse to bring cases, saying they would rather not press the Ryots if they will sow without recourse to Law. However

a very large number have now been started at Damoorhoodah, and I expect decisions on them before the end of the week.

On my return from Damoorhoodah on Saturday I went to one of the villages in the Khalboleah Concern, where the Ryots refused to sow. On explaining the Law to them they submitted, it being clear that they had taken their advances, "If that is the order of Government," they said, "of course we must sow." This is the general feeling, and the first decisions under the Act will produce sowings all over the District. I have been urging the Planters therefore to bring their cases on at once, that the result may be as speedily made known as possible.

The last news in from Mr. Tripp's neighbourhood is that he expects the Ryots will sow.

While at Damoorhoodah I had in the Joyrampore Ryots. They simply denied that they were under advances for the present year; some of them, they admitted, had taken advances, but the greater part they said had not done so, and unless ordered to sow they declined to do it. Their behaviour was perfectly respectful. I took the opportunity while at Damoorhoodah of inquiring into the grounds on which Ramrutton Moulik was officially reported to have assumed the title of Neel Bansa Binasuk, &c.—It is certain the title has never been seen in writing, and how it arose orally I am quite unable to ascertain.

From D. J. McNEIL, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Bongong, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 12, dated Narainpoor, 12th April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for the information of Government that, having received a report on the evening of the 8th instant, from the Daroogah of Bagdha, that he had been attacked by a mob in this place, and that four persons whom he had arrested had been rescued from him, I came down at once to the spot with thirty of the Military Police. I reached this place at sunset on the 9th, and upon information received from the Darogah and others, I arrested the same night in their houses eighteen out of twenty-three offenders, whose names were known. One other person has since been apprehended, and I have convicted the whole nineteen, and sentenced them to six months' im-

prisonment and to fine. I have also dismissed seven of the village Police, who were present and refused to lend the Darogah any assistance.

2. The facts of the case appear to have been as follow.—A petition was presented to the Darogah of Bagdha, at Jadabpore on the 7th instant, by one of the Elasmari Factory people, to say that, without the assistance of a Burkundaz to keep the peace in Narainpoor, they dared not go into that village to get the Indigo sown, and that as rain had fallen, they wished to do so at once. The Darogah sent a Burkundaz to the spot, and ordered the Naib Darogah of Mohishpore also to go there and see that no disturbance took place.

3. Another petition was presented to the Darogah a few hours afterwards by another of the Factory servants; stating that they had actually gone to Narainpoor to sow Indigo, and had been driven out by the villagers, and asking leave to go there in person. He did so; and on arriving at Narainpoor on the morning of the 8th instant, he found the Naib Darogah in the act of reading out to some five-and-twenty of the Ryots the Proclamation, issued by my predecessor three weeks ago under the Magistrate's orders. The Darogah then read out to the people the Purwana and Istehar recently issued, which explain the provisions of the new Act. They laughed at him, and said they would obey no such orders.

4. The Darogah then inquired from the Elasmari Factory Gomastah, who was present, who were the principal men among the Ryots before him. The Gomastah pointed out four persons, mentioning their names. The Darogah ordered two Burkundazes who were with him and the Chowkeedars present to arrest them; the Chowkeedars refused, but the Burkundazes obeyed his directions and seized the four men pointed out. They had not taken them, however, above 100 yards, when the Ryots of the neighbouring villages, who had been collecting round, and had apparently been lying in wait out of sight, suddenly appeared to the number of 200 or more, with latties in their hands, laid hold of the Darogah's prisoners and dragged them away from the Burkundazes, and threatened and abused the Darogah himself and his Naib. The Darogah, seeing how numerous his assailants were, did not attempt to recover the men who had been rescued from him, but retired, and reported the matter to me.

5. The case is therefore one of simple resistance to the Police, and would not be of any great importance were it not for its connection with the ill-feeling prevailing among the Ryots towards the Indigo Planters. That ill-feeling had to a great extent passed away in this part of the District, if indeed there ever has been much of it. But it has suddenly revived, and seems very widely spread. It will be impossible to tell, until another fall of rain occurs, what effect the punishment of these offenders may have upon the neighbourhood. But the last fall has been followed by no sowing throughout the greater part of the lands of the Ketgoora Factory. I am assured that only from 200 to 300 beegahs have been sown out of 12,000, though a large portion of them had previously been ploughed up for the purpose.

6. I have every hope that the removal of these individuals whom I have just convicted, and among whom are some of the principal promoters of the opposition to the Factory people, will have a very good effect. But the suddenness and extent of this movement among Ryots, who only a fortnight ago professed their readiness and willingness to perform their contracts, seems to set all anticipations as to their future behavior at defiance. Emissaries from other more disaffected parts must be at work among them.

7. Just now all is quiet, and I therefore return to Bongong.

No. 1938.

Copy forwarded for the information of the Government of India in the Home Department.

From A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 100Ct., dated Allipore, the 18th April 1860.)

Sir,

I beg to submit herewith, in original, the Nuddea Magistrate's 7th Weekly Report on the state of that part of his District in which the Indigo disputes prevail.

2. I presume that Mr. Herschel refers to Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Law as the contract Sections, and to 5 and 6 as the penal Sections.

The Planters are acting unwisely for their ultimate interests, if as here reported, they are trying "to invest the Law with greater terror than it really has." No doubt the promulgation of this stringent Law and the presence of troops must give them for the moment the advantage of appearing to have the whole weight of Government on their side, but if the Ryots, acting on good counsel and appreciating the exceptional character of the late measure, accept this as an order to sow for this year and reserve the question of their relations with the factories for deliberate decision hereafter, they will occupy a far better position for obtaining their object than the Planters, artificially supported as they are, now hold.

3. I cannot help fearing that misrepresentations of the real purport of the Law must have had some influence on such Ryots as are reported to have taken advances and made contracts since its promulgation.

4. The cases instituted in the Damoorhoodah Sub-Division have not yet been reported; in one case only under Section VI. disposed of by Mr. Herschel, has the decision been before me. In Jessore no cases under the new Law have yet been instituted.

5. I do not like to see the mention here made of Mr. Betts' having sentenced a Mookhtar to 6 months' imprisonment and fine under Section V. The effect of such a sentence will naturally be to deprive the Ryots of legal advice in the management of their cases, which will give the new Law a still harsher character than it must now wear. I have sent for the record and shall report on Mr. Bett's proceedings hereafter, and I shall require a report from the Magistrate on the heavy penalties inflicted by Mr. Mackenzie in the cases decided by him under Section VI.

6. I have seen Mr. MacNeil's report on the Narainpore Ryots, and so I am aware has His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. The application to the Darogah does not appear to me to have been sufficient to justify him in acting on it as he did, but I reserve my opinion on this point till I see the record, and learn the instructions which he gave to the Burkundauze when sending him to the village. The factory people should have brought a suit if they had reason to apprehend that the Narainpore Ryots would not sow. The Darogah's subsequent proceeding in going personally to the spot on a second similar application, and in arresting 4 persons pointed out by the factory Gomastah, as the princi-

pal men, in a crowd which had laughed at him, appears to have been arbitrary and injudicious enough to have provoked a more serious riot than that which followed.

No. 1939.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Government of India in the Home Department.

7th Weekly Report on the State of the Indigo Districts in Zillah Nuddeah ending 14th April 1860.

The operation of the new Law has began to show itself in the conduct of the people. It has undoubtedly acted as an irritant. The Planters, to judge by the complaints put in are straining every nerve to invest the Law with greater terror than it really has, and the sentences passed under it are being held as threats over the Ryots, who in several places have agreed to sow, yielding in some to the true bidding of the Law, in others to simple fear. I have not yet had a single case preferred to me under the contract section, though I have had several preferred under the penal sections. As a sign of the same tendency to coerce instead of to sue the Ryot even under the present most summary Law, I should mention that the Zemindaree powers of the Planters, to eject Ryots or to measure their lands are being largely worked, but a steady disinclination appears to exist to bring the real point at issue into Court at once. The only exception that I know of yet is in Mr. Forlong's case, who has instituted several suits at Damoorhoodah. Mr. Maclean (whose file is now reduced to manageable limits) received a geat number of cases on Saturday, the 7th, and he has brought a number of them to a decision already, and so have Messrs. Taylor and Betts.

2. Mr. Maclean reports,—"No breach of the peace has taken place in this part of the District, nor have any assemblages on the part of the villagers, or other proceedings likely to disturb the public tranquillity, taken place.

"In the Hardee Thannah, Mr. Taylor has been disposing of the cases brought by Mr. Hills, of Katchicatta, under the Bill to enforce Indi-

go contracts, and the Ryots have generally agreed to sow in obedience to orders. Here Mr. Betts and myself have had a good number of cases instituted by the Neechindipoor and Peerpoor Factories. For 2 or 3 days the Ryots steadily refused, and some were committed to the Civil Jail in default of payment of the pecuniary award. Yesterday however most of those committed by myself agreed to execute their contracts as ordered, and were therefore released, being at the same time warned that any delay would entail serious consequences on them

"The cases will be duly reported in obedience to the instructions this day received. I will only remark at present that the Ryots have steadily denied the receipt of advances, in the face of the Factory accounts signed by the European Assistant, and of the evidence on oath of the Dewan who paid the money. No other defence has been put forward beyond this simple denial.

"Trespass, and destruction of Indigo cases are very few in number. Intimidation and attempts to dissuade have been brought forward, and in one case a Mooktear was sentenced by Mr. Betts to imprisonment for six months and fine.

"No cases have yet been tried from the Khalboleah or Lokenathpoor Factories."

3. I have called for the last case mentioned, as also for one in which Mr. Mackenzie, at Hadrah, has sentenced a number of Ryots to imprisonment for six months for cattle destruction of Indigo. The penalty in the latter instance appears severe for a first case.

4. The only disturbance occurring since my last report has been at Narainpoor, in the Bongong Sub-Division. That it took place at all was owing to the disbelief of the Ryots in the authenticity of the orders read out to them. The report has already been submitted to Government direct by Mr. McNeil, and I enclose a copy of it herewith. The prompt punishment dealt out will, I think, restore discipline.

5. On the whole, the week has been a critical one, with several sowing showers of rain. In the Mulnath Concern, the villages which at first showed greatest opposition have sown as usual. In the North also several villages have sown, but the general progress is slow, and the difficulty of facilitating it without injustice to those Ryots whom the Law does not affect is what makes it so.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea.—(No. 1838, dated 19th April 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 100Ct., dated the 18th instant, enclosing Mr. Herschel's seventh weekly report on the state of the Indigo Districts in Zillah Nuddea. In this, special reference is made to the working of the new Law, which, Mr. Herschel observes, has been much misrepresented by the Planters to the Ryots; the sentences passed under it being held out as threats over the latter, with a view to coerce them to take advances. You seem to think that there is good ground for this belief.

The Lieutenant Governor is confident that if, as represented by Mr. Herschel, the Planters are straining the Law "to invest it with greater terror than it really has," you will see that the Magistrates effectively prevent such abuse.

The circumstance you report, that some Ryots have entered into agreements and taken advances since the promulgation of the Law, is remarkable. It proves at least this, that *all* the Ryots who used to cultivate Indigo were not, as a matter of course, under agreement to cultivate this year; and therefore great care is requisite in requiring proof of the agreement whenever the fact is disputed, otherwise grievous injustice may be done.

Mr. Herschel states that in the cases which have been tried, the evidence for the factories was their own books, as to the payment of advances, and the oath of one of their own Native servants; whilst no other defence has been put forward than a simple but steady denial of the *receipt* of advances by the Ryot. The Lieutenant Governor makes no doubt that the cases were decided in conformity with substantial justice, and presumes that in this, as in all other civil actions now, the Defendant is allowed to give his own evidence on oath, as well as the Plaintiff and his Native servants. But the manner in which the trials are spoken of makes this a little doubtful. If the case be not so, then justice is not done. When the Defendant's oath contradicts that of the Plaintiff's Native Servant, the obvious duty of the Judge is to seek out by all means, independent evidence, to show which story is the more credible. This duty, it is to be hoped, is never neglected.

The factory books show that advances have been charged to the owner of the Factory; but it is not stated that they contain the receipts of the payees; and it is not stated what the evidence of the European Assistant who signs them shows regarding the system of payment and entry.

These omissions in Mr. Herschel's report of the general character of these trials, the infliction by Mr. Mackenzie of the extreme penalty for the first case ever tried under the new Law for destruction of Indigo, and the unexplained sentence of a legal agent of some Ryot apparently to imprisonment for six months, show the necessity for the earliest possible revision by you of these proceedings, in order to make it quite sure now, and to be able to make it manifest hereafter, that the principles of equity and moderation are observed by each Officer entrusted with the extraordinary powers granted by the new Law.

From A. GROTE, Esq. Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 109Ct., dated Allipore, the 25th April 1860.)

SIR

I BEG to submit for the information of Government the Nuddea Magistrate's 8th Weekly Report, with its enclosure.

2. The cases alluded to as having been brought by Messrs Hill's Concern have been disposed of by Mr. Tayler, and have not yet come before me. I hear however that in some cases he has been awarding double penalty, which seems to be beyond the Law.

3. I submit for inspection two cases decided by Mr. Herschel and one decided by Mr. Mackenzie. These records will show his Honor that at all events the greatest pains have been taken by both Officers to arrive at the truth. I hope all Mr. Tayler's decisions may bear the same evidence. Mr. Betts' certainly do not. The Mookhtar, I learn, with great satisfaction, has been released on my report on the case.

4. It will be seen that 279 men have been imprisoned, and nearly two-thirds of them for breach of contract, while the Magistrate expects that at least 200 more will be imprisoned for the same offence. I can hardly believe that any man really under contract, or what the Magistrate

declared to be such, would prefer going to Jail to sowing Indigo, and such being the case, I am far from satisfied with the result.

5. Mr. Maclean reports that the Nischindepore and Peerpore suits have succeeded in bringing about a settlement between Mr. Forlong's factories and the cultivators. The Lokenathpore Concern is only just beginning to bring suits. Allusion is made in his report to the compromise of some cases of "instigation," and I have sent for the records of these.

6. The Magistrate had had to correct a practice which Mr. Maclean had sanctioned in the Damoorhoodah Sub-Division, of stopping the Ryots from sowing Paddy on what were claimed as Indigo lands.

7. Mr. Platts' explanation of the circumstances under which he believes the Cathowly Ryots to have lately given contracts is not satisfactory. His cases of "instigation" are being examined by the Magistrate.

8th Weekly Report of the State of the Indigo Districts in Zillah Nuddea, ending the 21st April 1860.

THE District has had its fret and is submitting. Sowings are going on to a very considerable extent.

2nd. The contract clauses have been largely worked by Messrs. Hill's Concern, and though I regret to say that the number of recusant Ryots sent to prison is very large, yet this was to be expected. The Law is against precedent to the Ryot's mind, and the illiterate populace cannot be taught the change in so brief a space of time without numerous examples.

3rd. Resort to the Law in this way has become more general since last week, but there are still many Planters who hold out, trusting to the examples which are being made to save them the necessity of imprisoning their own Ryots. In my last report I attributed this reluctance of the Planters to sue the Ryot to a desire, rather to coerce him. Without retracting that opinion, which I think applied at the time, I do not wish to attribute to the same motive the reluctance of all Planters who still keep aloof. The Law is being very rapidly impressed on the Ryots

themselves, and that I believe to be all that is necessary to ensure its object. Many of the Planters, therefore, who have not hitherto come into Court are acting wisely in abstaining from doing so now.

4*th*. I have had some difficulty to encounter during the week in controlling the general tendency to hurry matters to a conclusion.

6*th*. The question is very near its solution, and the temptation to settle it at once is very great. I am waiting anxiously for the reports of the next week, which will tell me whether I have thrown too much weight in the opposite scale.

6*th*. I enclose copies of the orders to which I refer.

7*th*. The irritation to which I allude at first has shown itself in a number of assaults and tumultuous gatherings in the Bagdah Thannah, and a tendency in the same direction which but for the Military Police would have broken out in Damoorhoodah too. As it is, no actual breach has occurred, and Mr. Maclean's report (enclosed) is decidedly cheering.

8*th*. I enclose also Mr. Platts' report which I am unable to condense much. It supports I think the opinion offered in my last that the Planters were trying the effect of their legal powers in other directions rather than appeal to the Law.

Statement of prisoners in the Civil and Criminal Jail, under Act XI of 1860, dated 23rd April 1860:

For Breach of Contract, ...	173
„ Destruction of Indigo,...	49
„ Intimidation, ...	57
Total, ...	279

At least 200 men are expected for breach of contract.

Mr. A. T. MACLEAN'S 8*th Weekly Report of the State of the Indigo Districts. Sub-Division Damoorhoodah, from* 15*th to* 21*st April* 1860.

DAMOORHOODAH.

During the past week there has been a great improvement in the Nischindepore and Peerpoor villages. In fact I believe they have universally agreed to sow, taken their seed and commenced to cultivate. In Joyrampoor the head men had admitted the engagements

of the village generally, and promised to effect a settlement within a very few days. I hear they are striving to bring it about, but that their Ryots are determined against it. The sowing of Paddy has been, I fear, carried to a considerable extent, and the consequence will be a large number of breach of contract cases. Hitherto none have been brought forward from Lokenathpore; those from Nischindepore and Peerpoor have brought about an universal settlement.

Doulutgunge.

The Khalbolea Concern has prosecuted a few Ryots for breach of contract, and the advance being proved, the defendants went to Jail in default of payment of damages awarded. The village of Shamnuggur, in which alone any active opposition to the Factory was going on, is reported by the Mooktear to have come to terms with them, and they now expect all to go on smoothly. Two cases pending against Asalut Biswas and others for instigation, &c., have been compromised.

In Hardee the Ryots seem less disposed to come round than here, and Mr. Tayler has a great deal of work I hear.

The Darogah reports that the Jhaoodiah Ryots were rather insubordinate towards him recently, refusing to admit him to their village, but no actual resistance was offered. I have called for a full report on the case, which originated in some disputes with the Factory, some of whose cattle &c., were carried off. I trust the case will not prove serious.

To the Darogahs.

The sowings of Indigo and Rice having commenced, I observe that several Police Officers are exceeding their authority in attempting to secure quiet by inducing the Ryots to sow.

2. I have to call the attention of all Police Officers to my orders of 21st March, in which the Police were absolutely prohibited from using their influence one way or the other. They were directed merely to read the Law or other orders out, but not to attempt to explain it. If the Ryots do not understand they must be told to come in to the nearest Magistrate.

3. The duties of the Police are now much simpler than before. The Law is now pretty well understood, and the late orders to read it out in villages where it may be necessary are accordingly stopped, excepting as to the Section about destroying Indigo. The destruction of Indigo is to be prohibited to the utmost. The Darogahs will now confine themselves to their usual duty of keeping the peace only.

4. The new Law does not give the Police any more power than heretofore to either order a Ryot to sow Indigo or to prohibit him from sowing Rice. It merely allows the Magistrate after judicial inquiry to order a Ryot who has taken advances to sow Indigo, and allows the Ryot if he prefers to pay the damages to sow Rice. If he does not pay the damages he will go to prison.

5. This order is not to be published. It is intended for the guidance of yourself and your subordinates, and is to be kept to yourself.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate.

Dated 19*th April* 1860.

TO THE DAROGAHS.

Dated 23*rd April* 1860.

The enclosed Notification is to be simply read out wherever my order prohibiting the interference of the Police in the matter may have encouraged the Ryots to sow Rice to their own and the Planter's loss.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate.

NOTIFICATION.

I hear that several Ryots without thinking of the result are sowing Rice on Indigo lands. This is sheer folly and wrong doing of theirs.

The Ryots well know, and those who don't may learn it now, that under the new Law any crop sown on lands which ought to have been sown in Indigo, will be attached by Government to pay the Planter's damages.

If after this warning they sow Rice on those lands, I have but one word to say; they will lose their crop, and when the Commission Hakims come, how are they to believe the words of the Ryots when they see them show such *budzatee* ?

Let the Ryots bear this in mind.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate.

From F. PLATTS, ESQ., Deputy Magistrate of Kurreempore, to the Magistrate of Nuddea,—(No. 76, dated Camp Meherpore, 2nd April 1860.)

SIR,

WITH reference to your Memorandum, No. 252, dated 19th April 1860, and the copy accompanying it, of the Commissioner of Nuddea's letter, No. 128, of the 16th April 1860, I have the honor to submit the following information.

2. Mr. Smith, of Cathowly, came to my Cutcherry one morning during the week ending Friday, the 13th April, and mentioned that the Ryots of several of his villages had signed kobooleuts to sow Indigo, and as others were coming in daily for the same purpose, he was in hopes that he would not have occasion to resort for the fulfilment of his contracts to the contract Law in force. He stated also, by way of explanation, that he had agreed to reduce by one-half the quantity of land hitherto sown by his Ryots with Indigo.

3. The fact that many Ryots have come to terms with (not only Mr. Smith) Planters has been communicated to me also by the Meherpore Darogah, and as no suits for breach of contract have been instituted by Messrs. Tripp, Tessendie, Sibbald, or any other Planter, with the exception of the Manager of the *Ruttonpore Concern*, it is clear, either that matters have been settled, or there is a prospect of arriving at an amicable settlement without resort to litigation.

4. I have no reason to suppose that unlawful measures have been adopted by the gentlemen I have named, to coerce the Ryots, for no complaints on that score have been made. It is true that *one* man presented a petition declaring that he had been forcibly compelled to sign a kobooleut, but he soon after, and without producing his evidence, filed a razeenamah. The Ryots of many villages have during the present week brought "notices" to the Darogah of this place, for explanation, and they proved to be notices of ejectment under Section XXI of the arrears of Rent Law. The men were informed that if their rent was not in arrears, and if they were not liable, under the terms of the Law of ejectment, their remedy lay with the Collector of the District. I have however mentioned this circumstance merely as a probable explanation of the Ryots agreeing to cultivate Indigo. There is another formidable power (formidable to the Ryots) in the hands of the Planter, by which he can make the Ryot conform to his will. I allude to the system of receiving payment of rent in kind. The Planters thus accumulate the greater portion of the grain of the District in their Golabarees, and the Ryot's chief supply is obtained from these stores. If the Planter refuses to sell or supply, the result is obvious.

5. The Commissioner considered it highly improbable that contracts should be renewed now, since "so many alleged contracts are being repudiated." With reference to this opinion I would beg to venture the following facts: 40 cases have been instituted in this Court, and 11 men have already appeared as Defendants; of these eleven, seven acknowledge that the contract to sow exists, and of the seven, four unreservedly admit having received an advance in cash; while the other four say that the advance, though made, was never received by them, as it was immediately carried to their credit on account of rent, which they acknowledge to have been due. There remains then the minority of four, who repudiate the contracts and allege that their lands were sown by force.

6. No cases under the new Law between the Cathowly proprietor and his Ryots have as yet been decided by me. Two or three charges of instigation of Ryots, and wanton destruction of Indigo crops, are pending, and under investigation. I am unable to supply a report of the cases of instigation of Ryots *decided* by me, as the records of all such cases have been forwarded, according to instructions, to your office.

Prosecutor,	Nobo Biswas, Servant of Mr. Clarke, of Khalbolia.
His Witnesses,	
Defendants.	1. Alum Biswas. 2. Gopal Ghose. 3. Dewan Mundul. 4. Sherag Bukshee. 5. Hater Sheik. 6. Hadoo Pandit. 7. Joynal Sheik. 8. Nufur Mundul. 9. Kadim Mundul. 10. Monmon Ghutok and others.
Their Witnesses.	
Crime charged.	

PROCEEDINGS.

Plaintiff, sworn.—I am Teshildar of Tengura and others. The Ryots of Simla Panchpotah petitioned to the Court against sowing Indigo. They wanted me to join them. I refused. They threatened me not to come in to the village again. Now the Defendants 1 to ..... give out that they will kill me and not let me enter the village and will burn my house. I dare not go into my own house in the village, and I fear any day to hear of my house being burnt.

On being questioned who has said or done this, he states that 4 days ago, Defendants 1, 2, and 3 told me this in Simla at the house of Safi Sheik near my own house.

Examined.—I am under engagement to sow Indigo. The threats now used to me are to deter me from sowing it. I have not dared to enter the village for a month past.

Question.—Then how about your being at Safi's house four days ago?

Answer.—I did go one night, after hearing this threat. I now live at Bhatchala. My family stay in my house at Simla. I had not been home for a long time. I went only to see my family, not on my master's business.

Why did you stop at Safi's house?

They (his house and mine) are 8 yards apart. I saw a number of Mussulam and Gwalahs sitting there. They said "*Salam alaikum*, sit here awhile." I sat down and we talked awhile. They said "we are going to prosecute our complaint, you must go with us." I refused. They said we'll make you. I then went home. I have not removed my family in consequence. I have 6½ beegahs under Indigo cultivation, but not sown. As I was sitting there, Puncha and Ishwar came, seeing the majlis they came after I did from Chunder Roy's Golabarree about one russee off. I left the village early in the morning. I have not had any occasion to go to the village since. I left it a mouth ago. I generally live at Bhatchala, and go home after an interval of a week or two, or a month or two.

Question.—It seems then, that you went this time much as usual, and without opposition. I do not see that you were under any apprehension when you went home this time?

Answer.—There has been nothing to do in the village lately. The rents are all collected.

Witness.—Puncharam Ghose.—I and Ishwar and Ramchunder Roy went to Narainpore in the afternoon. We were returning from Chunder Roy's house. When near Safi's house we saw defendants 1, 2 and 3 telling Plaintiff "you have agreed to sow Indigo for the Saheb. If so, we will *beizzut* you and burn your house and kill you and your family. If you join us no one shall be allowed to touch you." Plaintiff objected and called out "do you hear." Then all the rest of the Defendants began to give him abuse and threats. Afterwards Plaintiff by humouring them got away.

Evades or cannot say what the particular conversation was. Quite impossible to bring him to details.

Went close up to the *paura* in which they were all sitting. *Sat down* below it, got a hookah and a smoke there. They had a hubble-bubble passing round. Don't know whether Nobo Biswas was smoking.

Ishwar Sirdar.—Ditto. Says Plaintiff called on them to bear witness to the fact that they had threatened to burn his house.

Plaintiff recalled.—Did you call on witnesses to bear witness when the threat of fire was used?

I called them as witnesses to the general conduct of the Defendants. I did not do it in consequence of any particular threat used by any particular man. I said you be witnesses and therefore got up and went away. Alum Biswas first used the words "We'll burn your house." I knew the witnesses before.

Puncharam, re-examined.—I was told then by the Plaintiff "These fellows won't be witnesses, I shall call you." He told us this as he left the place. Alum first said "We'll burn your house." I was not threatened when Plaintiff said "These fellows won't bear witness, you must."

By Defendant's Mooktear who has just come in.—I am a Tagadgir of the Saheb's.

Ishwar.—After a deal of examination, and being brought to the point by almost leading questions says, Alum said "We'll burn your house." I am a Nil Tagadgir of the Saheb's.

I do not believe the charge, and would dismiss it at once, but I prefer taking the defence of the party before deciding whether to put the Plaintiff on his defence for preferring a false complaint.

Alum Sheik, Defendant.—Denies; declares that Nobo Biswas did not go into the village that day.

Gopal.—The same.

Diyanut.—The same.

DECISION.

I distrust the charge altogether. I find no reason to doubt that Plaintiff did go into the village that day. His deposition wears an appearance of truth in this respect, but the only question before me is what was said at the meeting between himself and the Ryots. To prove this he brings two witnesses who, concealing their service under the Plaintiff, put themselves forward as chance Ryots of another village accidentally passing the place. They are exposed now as regular paid servants of the Plaintiff.

This, and the very unsatisfactory result of the cross examination leave me no room to doubt that they were not really present at the

meeting. Had they been present, they would have avowed their service and given it as the reason for their presence.

That two hired witnesses should have been brought is enough to make the Plaintiff liable for a false complaint. But I really believe there was a meeting of the two parties, and before putting him on his defence, I expected to get proof of what really was said at it. The Defendants however absolutely deny the presence of the Plaintiff in the village that day, and as I cannot believe their assertions on the point I cannot consider it *proved* that the Plaintiff's deposition is *false*.

It is certainly not proved true however, and the Defendants are acquitted.

I earnestly hope no more attempts will be made to support these charges by false witnesses. I am aware of the difficulty of procuring witnesses in the present state of affairs. But nothing can justify the deliberate falsification of evidence. Had the story of the Defendants appeared to me a reasonable one, I would not have hesitated to act upon it.

W. J. HERSCHEL,
Officiating Magistrate.

19*th April* 1860.

Prosecutor.	1. Okhil Chunder Biswas.
His Witnesses.	
Defendant.	1. Bolai Mundul.
His Witnesses.	
Crime charged.	Breach of contract.

PROCEEDINGS.

Plaintiff, sworn.—I am a servant of the Tezaratee of the Hanskhally Concern. Defendant in 1859, on the 11th February, took 4 Rupees cash, after settling accounts which showed him to owe 9½ annas. He agreed to sow 2½ biggahs year by year from 1859 to 1863-64, for 5 years. He gave a written koboolyat. Now they won't sow.

Files the koboolyat.

Plaintiff examined.—The koboolyat was signed in my presence.

By Defendant's Mooktear.—The Gomastha, Somnath Gangoolee, gave the money at the time. Mr. Hampton was then there in his room. The money was given in the Dufturkhana of the press-house.

I am now Tezaratee Gomastha to the Factory. I have no connection with the Indigo Department of the Factory. I live in village Bhadjanala. I know that the agreement specifies 5 years, and that it fixes 10 Rupees a beegah as penalty for not cultivating. I do not remember any of the other stipulations. Joynarain Biswas signed the paper as having been drafted by him. Hirmath Sheikh the same. The other witnesses were Keemoo Sheikh, who touched the pen; there was a Brahmin, a Mohurrir of Mr. Hampton's time there, who wrote the names for the witnesses who could not write; I don't know his name. There were present also Bansi Sheikh, Baboo Sheikh, and Nazir Sheikh That Mohurrir, a Brahmin, filled in the blanks in the printed koboolyat as well as the names. I cannot say whether my name was given in by my employers as a servant in the isonnavessee of that time.

By the Court.—I was Tezaratee servant at that time in the same position that I am now. The Tezaratee papers were then kept at Hanskhally.

By the Mooktear.—I am employed mostly at the Golabaree, where I have to attend the actual business. I keep papers of my own wherever I am, and send up reports, &c. to the Factory.

I have given evidence in one case under Act X of 1859.

By Defendant.—The Saheb got the paper from Calcutta. I know because I asked at the time. I am not called on to see these papers often. I cannot say I have ever seen more of them.

The whole of Dokhinpara was in that day to settle accounts. I am not a witness to all these koboolyats. I am merely prosecutor. I have

no mooktearnama. I am on behalf of my master. I went that day only to the Factory. I was not stopping there then. I went there in the morning and returned in the afternoon.

By the Court.—I had nothing whatever there to do with what was going on. I happened to see what was done. I am now prosecutor as representative of the Factory.

The writing began at four dundo, *i. e.*, I went there then and staid till the afternoon. The witnesses swear to the koboolyat.

Witness Joynarain, examined.—Is a servant of Plaintiff's master. Was an Oomedwar there when the koboolyat was written. I have now been engaged as Mohurrir for 2 or 3 months, In Lakigachcha Factory. After thinking, "I receive 3 Rupees a month;" I have written in the Zemindaree books of that Factory.

I staid in the Factory as Oomedwar, was there writing at 1½ *pohur din.* Great numbers were signed, I only signed on 6 papers. I know nothing about any others. I don't know the name of the Mohurrir who wrote the koboolyat. He was a Brahmin Oomedwar who came up from Calcutta. I do not know all the Ryots of Dokhinpara, I knew these 6 because they came that day. I have not seen them since. I can recognize them all six now. The koboolyat was given to the Dewan. With myself, there were 7 witnesses. I cannot say without looking at the koboolyat for how much each koboolyat was. Bolai and Bikal signed by mark; the others wrote themselves.

Cannot say when the Janmonsthamee was.

Nazir Seikh, Witness.—I went with a letter to Hanskhally. I saw the Ryots signing koboolyats. I am Tagadgir of Chitrosail Factory. I saw Bolai sign and was made a witness in the case. Somenath Brahmin was then Dewan, Mr. Hampton was in charge of the Factory. Names the witness. The koboolyat was written by a Brahmin of Mr. Hampton's Oomedwaree. I don't know his name.

Hirmat.—I went with wood on hire to Hanskhally. Saw the koboolyat being settled. I saw Bolai give a koboolyat (names all the conditions.)

DECISION.

I cannot support this case.

These witnesses are, I regret to say, utterly untrustworthy. They are without exception men who have no natural connection with the pre-

paration of the koboolyat. This document I observe is an excellently printed one on stamped paper, with the year on which the agreement was to be made, printed on it. It is not probable that an agreement so well got up would have been concluded without better witnesses to it than a Rice agent who has nothing whatever to do with Indigo; an Oomedwar, who, after a year of attendance has obtained now a Mohurrir's appointment on 8 Rupees a month, a Tagadgir of another Factory who happened to have come to the spot with a letter; again, men who happened to be bringing wood to the Factory and a Mohurrir, who was seeking employment from the Assistant in charge of the Factory at the time, who also wrote in the blank spaces in the form, but whose name no one knows nor where he now is. Judging by the manner of the witnesses and their appearances, I come to the same conclusion *viz.*, that the witnesses are false witnesses and that the koboolyat was never given.

No Factory accounts are given in; the whole case depends absolutely on the reliability of the evidence offered to the simple signature of the koboolyat and that breaks down completely.

I dismiss the case.

W. J. Herschel,
Offg. Magistrate.

23*rd April* 1860.

No. I.—STATEMENT OF CONVICTION.

DISTRICT NUDDEA.

MR. W. L. MACKENZIE,—*Deputy Magistrate.*

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
No. of case in the Magistrate's Register.	Name of Prosecutor.	Witnesses and Documents for Prosecution.	Name of Prisoners.	Witnesses and Documents for Defence.	Crime charged, when perpetrated, and date of complaint.	Crime Established.	Sentence of the Magistrate and when it was passed.	Decision and grounds thereof under Act XXXIII. of 1854.
No. 5,	Sheikh Ameer Tagadgeer for Mr. James Hill's Beerpore Factory.	1. Modoo Raj, Burkundaz. 2. Chamroo Boonwa. 3. Giri Dhur Boonwa.	1. Meer Moolook Chand Sheikh. 2. Nondo Das. 3. Nocolee Sheikh. 4. Teencowrie Mundul. 5. Kabil Mundul. 6. Jayroo Sheikh 7. Meher Alie.	(1.) Hayroz Mundul. (2.) Badoo Mundul. (3.) Noayn Sheikh. (4.) Dhonai Sheikh. (5.) Jhoroo Mundul. (6.) Hakem Mundul (7.) Soojhan Rai. (8.) Hant Moora Mundul. (9.) Bolai Das. (10.) Lal Mohun Sheikh. (11.) Pathari Sheikh. (12.) Jadoo Das. (13.) Jooran Sheikh. (14.) Nocoo Sheikh. (15.) Nazir Sheikh, (16.) Anundo Sheikh. (17.) Badal Sheikh. (18.) Moodee Sheikh. (19.) Harran Sheikh. (20.) Khoshall Sheikh.	Destroying growing crop of Indigo. Offence committed at 3 P. M., on the 24th Cheyth, or 5th April 1860. Complaint preferred 6th April or 25th Cheyth.	Same as charged Section VI. of the New Bill for enforcing the fulfilment for Indigo contracts.	Six months' imprisonment each with labor commutable to fines of fifty rupees each to be paid within one week.	This complaint has been instituted under the provisions of Section VI. of the New Bill to enforce the fulfilment of Indigo Contracts. Complainant, sworn on the 6th instant, deposes that as he was on

his way to the Rariparah Haut at about 3 p. m. on the day previous, he saw the undermentioned villagers of Beerpore, (who have taken advances to sow Indigo and have actually sown Indigo,) ploughing up a field of Indigo with seven ploughs; the field was Kalla Moolook Chand Sheikh's, and the men ploughing were the said Kalla Moolook Chand Sheikh, Tecncowrie Ghorami, Nocolee Sheikh, Jugroo Sheikh, Kabil Sheik Mehar Alli Sheik, Kamal Mundul, Nondo Das, and Deeno Ghose, the latter was merely standing with a latee in his hand. Complainant forbid them to break up the Indigo, they were about (or attempted) to beat him. They broke up about two beegahs of plant.

Immediately on taking complainant's deposition I directed the issue of summons on the defendants, and immediately proceeded in person to the spot.

I found on examination of the field, which had been ploughed up, shoots of young grown Indigo plant, and from the slender size of the shoots I have no doubt whatever the plant was of October sowing, and not old stumps of last year with new leaves, as alleged by Moolook Chand and others in his behalf. Some old stumps of last year, with new leaves on them, were plucked up by the Ryots from an adjoining *potit* field, and handed to me, but on comparing these stumps with the young plant growing on the ploughed field, which I had myself plucked up, and which had been taken up for me, it was clear to me beyond doubt, that young growing plant had been ploughed up, and equally clear that the Indigo growing on the *potit* field was of last year's sowing (*i. e.* old stumps with new leaves.)

A North-wester coming on prevented me making a more minute examination, but I am perfectly satisfied that young growing Indigo plant was ploughed up.

On the following day (the 7th instant,) complainant was subjected to a severe cross-examination in the presence of the seven defendants present. On being confronted with defendants he at once identified them. Complainant swears Moolook Chand took an advance from the Factory, also sixteen seers of Indigo seed, agreeing to sow four beegahs of land, and that the Indigo in question which has been ploughed up was sown by Moolook Chand himself in the end of Assin or beginning of the month of Kartick last.

Witness No. 1, Modoo Raj, Burkundaz, examined on the 7th in

the presence of the accused? deposes in chief to the same effect as complainant in his examination in chief. He also proves the taking of the advance and of the seed by Moolook Chand, and the sowing of the seed by Moolook Chand.

Witness No. 2, Chamroo Boonwa, deposes to the like effect in chief. He also saw Moolook Chand taking Indigo seed from the Factory.

Witness No. 3, Giridhur Boonwa, deposes to the same effect in chief. He saw Indigo plant growing on the field, but did not see Moolook Chand take an advance or seed.

Complainant files Moolook Chand's written agreement to sow four beegahs of Indigo. It appears from this document, which is on a two annas stamp paper, that Moolook Chand took an advance in cash of two rupees; that the former balance against him was ten rupees, one anna and three pie, and that he became also liable for the two annas, the value of the stamp, in all twelve rupees, three annas and three pie. The agreement bears date the 25th September, or 10th Assin last, and by a clause in the agreement Moolook Chand agrees to sow Indigo for five years.

The defendant Moolook Chand denies that any Indigo was sown in the field in question this year. He alleges he cultivated Sugar Cane in the field formerly; that he cut and took the Sugar Cane in the month of Falgoon of last year, that in the end of the month of Bysack, or in the beginning of the month of Jeyth, the Factory people *chittawed* Indigo seed by force in the land; that the Indigo crop, however, was not a good one; that some large plant was cut and taken, and the small plant was allowed to remain; that he ploughed the land in Kartick, sowed and raised a crop of Rye and Sursoo; that he again ploughed the land about twenty days before in order to sow Dhan. He denies having ploughed up and destroyed any plant of this year, that two or three of the old plants may have remained standing in the field; that what Indigo he has sown this year he has carefully prepared, and so on. He denies having taken an advance or any seed. His lands were sown by force by the Factory people. He states he preferred a general complaint with others against the oppressions of the Planter both at Kishnaghur and at Calcutta, but did not prefer any specific complaint. He denies having executed any agreement.

Hasroo Mundul, the first witness examined in support of Moolook

Chand's defence, proves that Sugar Cane was formerly cultivated on the land, and that he *heard* the Factory people had forcibly sown Indigo in the month of Bysack last, but that he does not know whether Indigo or what crop was cultivated on the land, this year.

Baboo Mundul deposes to the like effect in chief.

Noyan Seikh ditto more in detail. He also deposes that in Assin last Moolook Chand ploughed the land and sowed Sursoo. Cannot say whether there was any Indigo on the ground, when the Sursoo was sown. Cannot say whether Moolook Chand sowed Indigo this year. Did not see him take an advance. He calls Moolook Chand "Nana" (grand father) and so on.

Dhonei Seikh to like effect with some variance. The Indigo on the land only the old stalks. Calls Moolook Chand "Mamma" (Uncle.)

Jhoroo Mundul, deposes much to the same effect.

He does not know whether any Indigo was sown this year or not and so on.

Hakeem Mundul to like effect calls Moolook Chand "Mammoo" (Uncle.)

Soojhan Rai saw that the field had been ploughed this Cheyth. Saw Sursoo in the field in Agraun, cannot say whether Indigo was sown in the land in Assin or Kartick last. And so on.

The defendant Nondo Das pleads denial and alibi. He was at Shabatee, ½ a cos from Beerpore, at the time of the alleged outrage. He says the Factory has been quarrelling with his village folks for the past six months, and that the Factory people sowed six or seven beegahs of his land by force in the month of Kartick last.

The witness Hautkoora Mundul, Bolai Das and Jadoo Das support the alibi.

The Defendant Nocolee Sheikh pleads denial.

He grazes cattle and is not a ploughman. He will not cultivate Indigo; hence the complaint against him. His brother Meghai Mundul, who is one in food with him, has a khada and a half of land; the Sahib wants his land for Indigo.

The witness Lalmohun Seikh supports the defence; he also swears he met Defendant on the Chatooree mat at the time of alleged offence, and eat rice with Defendant.

His other witness Pathari Sheikh does not know whether he broke up

the Indigo or not, but proves he grazes cattle and does not follow the plough.

8. The defendant Teencowrie Mundul pleads denial. He enquires why he should break up Indigo in another man's field, when he has not done so to the Indigo grown forcibly on his own lands, that he has four khadas of land, seven or eight beegahs of which have been forcibly sown in Indigo; that there is now Indigo plant on the whole seven or eight beegahs, and that he does not plough with his own hands.

His servant, the witness Jooran Sheikh proves that he does not put his own hand to the plough, that his two brothers and two servants plough, and so on.

His other servant, Nocoo Sheikh, deposes to the like effect. He does not know whether Teencowrie broke up the Indigo or not.

The defendant Kabil Mundul pleads denial. Knows nothing. He does not sow Indigo, hence the complaint. He has three Khadas of land, seven or eight Kooras of which were sown by force in Indigo in the month of Assin last. He is a *Koyal*.

His witnesses Nazir Sheikh and Anundo Sheikh prove he is the village Koyal, and that he is not a cultivator though he has land.

The defendant Joyroo Sheikh pleads denial; cannot say why he has been complained against. His "barce" is about 40 russees from Moolook Sheikh's. Has one and a half Khada of land and one plough, about ten cottahs of which have been forcibly sown down in Indigo.

His witness, Badal Sheikh, does not know whether defendant broke up the Sahib's Indigo. The defendant is a brother-in-law of the witness, &c.

His other witness, Moodee Sheikh, says Joyroo is a peaceful man. They plough together &c.

The defeudant Meher Ali pleads denial and alibi. He has been complained against because he would not allow Indigo to be sown by force. He is a servant of the widow of Hurrochunder Bose.

This witness Harran Sheikh proves he was ploughing in his company, but cannot remember the day of the month or of the week. Cannot say whether defendant broke up the Indigo or not. And so on.

His other witness Khoshall Sheikh is a fellow servant of defendant's. He deposes to the like effect, but remembers the day of the week, it was last Thursday. Cannot say whether defendant broke up Indigo or not. And so on.

Upon careful consideration of the whole of the evidence recorded in this case and after local observation, I see no sufficient reason to doubt the bona fides of the complaint, with respect to one and all of the defendants. The villagers of Beerpore are all combined to sow no more Indigo, and I see no reason to doubt make common cause against the Factory.

I convict and sentence as detailed in columns seven and eight, and hope the punishment awarded will teach the villagers of Beerpore a wholesome lesson and act as a deterrent to others. Should it prove ineffectual, and another complaint of the same kind be proved against the villagers to my satisfaction, I will not hesitate to award the maximum amount of punishment allowed by the Law.

CAMP BURRA ANDOOLERA,
10*th April* 1860.

L. MACKENZIE,
Deputy Magistrate.

The Deputy Magistrate appears to have gone most carefully into the case, and to have given every consideration to the evidence offered. The conclusion as to the guilt of the prisoners is undoubtedly correct, but the punishment appears too severe for the first case tried under a new Law. It must be borne in mind that though the Ryots were no doubt anxious to get rid of their obligation to the Factory yet till this new Law was passed they were not criminally liable for the acts they have committed. It is not fair to say that because before the Law was altered they, believing that they were allowed to do so, did destroy Indigo, therefore their guilt is greater if they do so now, that such an act is declared a crime. A sentence of one month would have been sufficient to prevent a repetition of the offence in that village.

N. B.—In these cases it is to be observed that the Law makes no mention of any contract. "Growing Indigo" is to be protected. It does not matter in the least whose it is or why it was sown. The Planter's assertion that he has an interest in it is sufficient to entitle him to prosecute, and now that the act is declared a crime malice may be inferred from the act itself.

No. XXV.

From the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to F. Gouldsbury, Esq., Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(dated the 7th March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor has seen in the public prints, and also received private intimation of a very serious outrage, which is reported to have occurred at Alipore, near Aurungabad, in the District of Moorshedabad, on the 24th February. The circumstances connected with this case, as it has been represented, are, that certain Ryots connected with the Ankoora and Kalapanee Factories, in consequence of the grievous oppression and extortion of the Gomashta of one of these factories, attacked and pursued him into the factory, when they either beat him to death or left him very dangerously wounded.

It has also been reported that, in consequence of the excited state of the people, the Assistant of the Manager of these factories had to make his escape from the factory, in company with the members of his family, on foot.

As the above case appears to be one of a very serious and aggravated nature, involving the peace and security of an important Sub-Division of the Moorshedabad District, you will be so good as to report immediately what particulars have reached you regarding it, and what measures have been or are now being adopted in consequence. Should the circumstances of the case, as above detailed, be found to be generally correct, the Lieutenant Governor requests you to explain why you omitted to bring so serious a matter to his notice, in accordance with the tenor of the instructions issued on the abolition of the Quarterly Statements, that all important cases should be separately and immediately reported to Government.

From F. GOULDSBURY, Esq.. Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. C., dated Rajshahye, the 11th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt (this morning) of your letter No. A. dated the 7th instant, and in reply to state that no intimation of the serious outrage therein mentioned has reached this Office. I have called upon the Magistrate of Moorshedabad for an immediate report on the subject, and on receipt of his reply the result shall be communicated to you.

From F. GOULDSBURY, Esq., Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William—(No. 489. Dated Rajshahye the 19th March 1860.)

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter, No. C, of the 11th instant, I have the honor to forward a copy of one from the Magistrate of Moorshedabad reporting the particulars of the recent disturbances in the neighbourhood of the Ankoora and Kalapance Factories in that District.

2. It will be seen that nothing more serious has occurred than the beating of the Factory Gomashta, whose oppressive conduct is said to have been the sole cause of the disturbance, and that the matter has since been amicably settled.

3. Adverting however to the excitement prevailing among the Ryots in that part of the District, I have deemed it advisable, as a precautionary measure, to send over a Detachment of the Military Police to be at hand in case of their services being required.

From W. MORRIS BEAUFORT, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Moorshedabad, to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division,—(No. 25, dated Berhampore, the 15th March 1860.)

SIR,

IN reply to your letter No. B. of the 11th instant, I have the honor to inform you, that on the 24th ultimo a report was received from

the Darogah of Shumsheergunge that the Chowkeedar of Mumrezpore had given information that the Manager of the Factory at Ankoorah had surrounded the village for the purpose of plundering it, and that the villagers had collected at Nutoonhat to the number of 3,000 to resist the attack. Two days afterwards (on the 26th) a further report was received from the Darogah, who had in the meanwhile gone to the spot himself. He stated that he together with the Darogah of Sooty arrived at Mohadebnugger, the scene of the disturbance, at night, and in the morning deputed the Mohurrir to look for traces of the plunder referred to in his report of the previous day, and to prevent the Ryots of Mumrezpore from committing any riot, and he himself proceeded to Shaukparah and its adjacent villages, where he found that the villagers had been collected in numbers at different places by beat of drum. He went to these several parties, explained to them the folly of what they were about to do, and the consequences likely to result from it; he cautioned them to desist from all breach of the peace, and at least to suspend all operations till the arrival of the Hakim on the spot, when full justice would be done to their grievances, to which they acceded, though they refused to disperse When reporting the above circumstances the Darogah received intimation from Ameerudeen, Burkundaz of the Hazarparah Phawree, that Morad Biswas had come to the house of Shahas Mundle, of Mohadebnuggur, to concert plans for an attack upon the Kalapanee Factory and the murder of the Manager. Notice was immediately sent of the matter to Mr. Rice, with a request that he whould at once quit the place, and the Darogah succeeded in preventing the rioters, already advanced as far as Kalapance and Protapgunge, from committing any disturbance on that day.

That the planters on the other hand were assembling armed men to attack the Ryots, and that he could not investigate the case of Taffazzal Hossen, Gomashta, as the witnesses named in the plaintiff's deposition had all fled.

2. This information the Officiating Joint Magistrate communicated to me in the interior of the District demi-officially, proposing to send the Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Sreesh Chunder Vidyarutna, to the spot. In reply I sanctioned the deputation of the Deputy Magistrate, and suggested that a very strong body of Police should also be sent.

3. The Deputy Magistrate and the Police reached the scene of action on the 29th idem, and found that the facts had been much exaggerated. The Factory Gomashta had indeed been beaten, but not so as in any

way to endanger his life, and the people had dispersed. Mr. Rice too, the Assistant at Kalapanee Factory, had left it with his family on the advice of the Police, as a precautionary measure, and had gone to another factory named Noorpoor. The disturbance appeared, as the Deputy Magistrate reports, to have been caused solely by the oppressive conduct of the Factory Gomashta, who was beaten, and though the rioters did go to Mr. Rice's Factory, they went away again peaceably when they were told that he was not there.

4. As both the Zemindaree and the factories belong to the same person, Mr. David Andrews, both parties very soon came to the determination that it would be best to make up their quarrel, and therefore when the Officiating Joint Magistrate applied to me for my advice as to whether he should allow them to compromise the matter, I recommended him to comply with their wishes to avoid re-exciting or making permanent the bad feeling which had been raised, and because if they were determined to hush up the matter we should find no evidence upon which to prosecute.

5. With reference to no report of the affair having been sent to you, I have the honor to enclose a copy of the Officiating Joint Magistrate's explanation of his having neglected to send to you information of the disturbance, and in extenuation of my own share in the neglect in not having myself seen that a proper report was submitted I venture to state that I was in the interior of the District at the time when I received Mr. Alexander's report, which was merely the demi-official communication which I have before alluded to in para 2.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(No. 1271, dated the 27th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters noted on the margin, regarding the disturbance in the Aurungabad Sub-Division alluded to in Mr. Officiating Secretary Lushington's letter No. A, dated the 7th instant, and in reply to state that from

No. C. dated 11th instant.
No. 489, dated the 19th instant, with enclosures.

what he heard of this case at Alipore, in that Sub-Division, the Lieutenant Governor cannot bring himself to believe that the report now before him, which makes light of the case, is founded upon full and correct information of the facts.

2. I am to remark that from first to last the case appears to have been most weakly and improperly treated by the Magistrate, and the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the virtual ignoring of this disturbance, which occurred last month, may have led to the further serious outbreaks which have taken place within the last few days.

3. The Officiating Joint Magistrate, Mr. Alexander, who appears to have been entrusted with the Police charge, seems to the Lieutenant Governor to be deserving of very severe censure for not having immediately reported the occurrence, and for not having proceeded on the instant to the spot. Very great blame also attaches to Mr. Beaufort who, as the Magistrate of the District, is in fact the Officer to be held primarily responsible. You are requested to intimate to these Officers the very unfavorable opinion which the Lieutenant-Governor has formed of their conduct in this case.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor now desires that a full inquiry may be made into the affair, and you are requested to place the investigation in the hands of Mr. Wood, who has been placed in temporary charge of the Aurungabad Sub-Division, and to whom orders on the subject have this day been issued direct.

5. It must be ascertained what numbers were engaged in the affair; what temper they showed; whether it is true that the Factory Gomashtah was left for dead; what exactly were the injuries which he received; what were the particular acts of oppression which, as is now at last reported, induced the villagers to make this attack upon him, and how long such oppression had been practised; what the owner or manager of the factory had done to check, encourage, or instigate such oppression; and in whose interest and for whose profit such acts were committed.

6. The stories current and credited, of oppression in the quarter in question, are such, that if those connected with the factory are *not* culpable, inquiry is due to them; and if they *are*, it is due to the public that criminal proceedings should be instituted against the guilty parties.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to Brownr Wood, Esq., Assistant Commissioner Southal Pergunnahs, in temporary charge of the Sub-Division of Aurungabad, Moorshedabad,—(No. 1272, dated the 27th March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to forward to you a copy of the correspondence noted on the margin, relative to a disturbance which occurred on the 24th ultimo in the neighbourhood of certain Indigo factories in the Aurungabad Sub-Division, and to request that you will institute a full and searching investigation into the circumstances of the case, submitting a report of your proceedings for the Lieutenant-Governor's consideration. As to the time suitable for commencing the inquiry, the Lieutenant-Governor desires that you will exercise your discretion with reference to the state of feeling on the spot.

To Commr. Rajshahye No. A, dated 7th instant.
From Ditto No. C, dated 11th instant.
From Ditto No. 489, dated 19th instant.
To Ditto No.—with enclosure of this day's date.

From F. Gouldsbury, Esq., Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 573, dated Rajshahye, the 9th April 1860.)

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 1271, dated the 27th ultimo, I have the honor to forward for the Lieutenant Governor's consideration, a copy of the explanation furnished by Mr. Beaufort regarding his conduct in the case therein alluded to. I think it is to be regretted that Mr. Alexander did not proceed to the scene of the disturbance in person, instead of sending the Native Deputy Magistrate, who seems to have been rather hasty in admitting a compromise, without taking any material guarantees from the parties for the preservation of the peace.

3. The papers of the case have been made over to Mr. Wood, with extracts paras 4 to 6 of your letter under acknowledgment and on completion of his inquiries, a full report shall be submitted. In the mean time, I purpose proceeding up the river to Aurungabad for a few days to see how matters are going on there; according to the last accounts received from Mr. Furrell, the Ryots were leaving their villages.

From W. MORRIS BEAUFORT, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Moorshedabad, to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division,—(No. 278, dated Berhampore, the 4th April 1860.)

SIR,

IN reply to your letter No. 10 Ct. of the 31st ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that all the papers regarding the attack upon Ankoorah factory were forwarded by me many days ago to Mr. Assistant Furrell, by whom they were of course made over to Mr. Wood when he received charge of the Aurungabad Sub-Division.

2. I regret exceedingly to observe the severe censure which his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has passed upon my conduct, and as I am conscious of having acted throughout entirely for the best, I trust that I may be permitted to submit through you the following explanation of the proceedings which have drawn down upon me his Honor's displeasure.

3. When I received from Mr. Alexander on the 27th of February the first report of this outrage, I was away from the Station on duty in the interior of the District. The only Officers in the District were Mr. Alexander, Mr. Kean, and the Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Sreeshchunder Vidyarutna. The first was engaged in preparing for committal to the Supreme Court that heavy case of attack upon Mr. Vivian, attended with the murder of a Chowkedar, in which eight Privates in Her Majesty's 73rd Foot were the prisoners. Had he not been so tied to the Station I should undoubtedly have requested him to proceed at once to Ankoorah in person.

4. Mr. Kean was in charge of the current duties of the Collectorate, and it was therefore impossible to send him.

5. Thus my only alternative was to request Mr. Alexander to depute the Deputy Magistrate with a very strong body of Police.

6. On the return of Baboo Sreeshchunder Vidyarutna from the interior, he came to me in office and reported that the Gomastah's injuries had been very much exaggerated; that everything had been composed again, and that as Mr. David Andrews was not only the proprietor of the factory but also the owner of the land, all parties had made up their minds to compromise the disturbance, and it was under this impression *alone*, that when Mr. Alexander wrote to request my advice as to whether he should admit the compromise or not, I recommended him to do so in order to avoid re-exciting any bad feeling which had existed between

the parties, and because it is impossible to obtain evidence in the face of a determination to hush up any matter. I was in hopes, I may add, that the beating which the Gomastah had received from the Ryots, and which I have no doubt that he richly deserved, would deter him and his fellows from similar acts of oppression. It was not until I went to Soote myself on the 24th of last month, that is, exactly one month after the occurrence, and had an interview with Mr. Macleod, Mr. David Andrews, Head Manager of the Aurungabad Concern, that I became aware that I had been entirely misled as to the feelings of both parties. I then found out that the compromise had been forced by the Deputy Magistrate; that Mr. Macleod was no party to it; and that it had been admitted without anything more than a verbal promise on the part of the Ryots that there should be no more disturbances, and that they would continue to cultivate their lands as before. I regret exceedingly that I was thus misled, and that acting upon this misinformation, I advised Mr. Alexander, the Joint Magistrate, to confirm the compromise; my having done so was, I assure you, owing to no want of vigour in intention, but simply to my having been led to believe that the quarrel was entirely at an end.

I trust that his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will consider this explanation satisfactory, and exonerate me from all blame in the matter.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(No. 1766, dated the 14th April 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 573, dated the 9th instant, and in reply to state that from Mr. Beaufort's letter of explanation therewith submitted, it appears to the Lieutenant-Governor that both he and Mr. Alexander have been deceived in the matter of the Aurungabad disturbances; but he remains under the impression that if the Magistrate had known as much as he ought to have known of what was going on in his District, and if he had had his Police properly in hand, he could not have been so deceived.

2. Nothing is said of any proceedings in regard to the conduct of the Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Sreesh Chunder Vidyarutna, in this affair. This must not be passed over. I am to request, therefore, that his conduct may be inquired into and reported upon, as well as that of the Police, in the course of Mr. Wood's investigation.

From F. GOULDSBURY, Esq., Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 481, dated the 18th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward for the information of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor a copy of a repot which I have just received from Moorshedabad, regarding a combination among the Ryots of certain villages in the Shumsheergunge Thannah, for the purpose of opposing any attempts to force them to sow Indigo, together with a copy of the instructions which I have sent to the Magistrate in consequence.

From H. W. ALEXANDER, Esq., Officiating Joint Magistrate of Moorshedabad, to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division,—(No. 23, dated the 14th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to state for your information that I have this day received intimation from the Shumsheergunge Darogah, that the Ryots of Kassimnuggur, Meertollah, Panchgachea and ten or fifteen other villages, within the jurisdiction of the said Thannah, have colluded together and assembled in numbers with the intention of opposing all attempts made to cause them to sow Indigo; Mr. Lyon, Superintendent of the Baniagram Factory (six miles from the Kalapance Factory) is likewise said to have assembled as many of his subordinates as possible, for the purpose, no doubt, of forcing the Ryots to sow Indigo.

2. Should he attempt to do so, in the present excited state of the villagers, a serious disturbance will inevitably take place between both parties.

3. Under these circumstances I have thought it expedient to write to him to warn him against any oppressive measures, which would infallibly tend not to quiet but to render much worse the present state of affairs.

4. I have further ordered the Mirzapore and Khamrah Darogahs to proceed immediately to the spot, with as many Burkundauzes as are available at their respective Thannahs.

5. A similar order has likewise been sent to the Mohurrir of Hazarpoora Pharree (distant one mile from the place of the disturbance), and he has likewise been called upon to state why he has up to this time given no intimation of this affair.

6. In conclusion, I would mention that I have every hope that this matter may be settled amicably, as Messrs. Macleod, Gordon and Ridge, Managers of Mr. David Andrews' Concern, are now stated to be at the Ancoora Factory for the express purpose of coming to a favorable understanding with the Ryots of the adjacent villages, who were reported before this to have assembled in a similar manner, for a similar purpose as in the present instance.

7. A further report will be submitted hereafter.

From W. M. BEAUFORT, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Moorshedabad,—(No. 24, dated the 15th March 1860.)

FORWARDED to the Commissioner of Rajshahye for his information.

From F. GOULDSBURY, Esq., Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division, to the Officiating Magistrate of Moorshedabad—(No. 480, dated the 18th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Office Memorandum of the 15th instant, No. 24, forwarding copy of a letter to your address from the Officiating Joint Magistrate of your District, under date the 14th idem, No. 23, reporting that certain villagers within the jurisdiction of Thannah Shumsheergunge, have combined together and assembled for the purpose of opposing all attempts made to cause them to sow Indigo, and that Mr. Lyon, the Superintendent of the Baniagram Factory, is said to have assembled as many of his subordinates as possible, with the intention, it is supposed, of forcing the Ryots to sow.

2. The measures taken by Mr. Alexander to prevent a serious disturbance taking place are approved of, but I should have preferred his proceeding in person to the spot, which you will be pleased to direct him to do, should the matter not have been settled amicably ere this reaches you: you will of course impress upon Mr. Alexander the necessity of his observing the strictest impartiality in his proceedings, which should be directed solely to maintaining the peace of the District; with

which view, the Ryots should be required to disperse and return peaceably to their homes, while any attempt on the part of Mr. Lyon to *force* them to sow Indigo should be at once repressed.

3. You are requested to keep me duly informed of what is done in this matter.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(No. 1135, dated the 23rd March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 481, dated the 18th instant, with its enclosures, reporting a combination among the Ryots of certain villages in the Shumsheergunge Thannah, in Moorshedabad, for the purpose of opposing any attempts which might be made on the part of Mr. Lyon, the Superintendent of the Baniagram Factory.

2. In reply, I am desired to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor approves of the instructions issued by you to the Officiating Magistrate, Mr. Beaufort, for the preservation of the peace. It is much to be hoped that both parties will come to an amicable settlement. The Magistrate must in any case keep the peace, and prevent all riotous or menacing assemblages.

Telegraph Message from the Assistant Commissioner of Rajmahal, to the Secretary to Government of Bengal,—(No. 3008, dated 21st March 1860.)

MR. DOYLE, of Nimtollah, bringing to my notice that Ryots of Moorshedabad Division were sending inflammatory letters to Ryots of this Division, calling upon all not to cultivate Indigo, threatening them with destruction of their houses and property if they did, also subscribing oaths to both Hindoos and Mussulmans, I proceeded to Nimtollah, succeeded in tracing and apprehending one of the chief conspirators, who seeing proofs strong against him, admitted, yesterday in his defence, he had written one of the intercepted letters, and implicated others concerned in above conspiracy. I sent him off on my elephant to Rajmahal this morning; a large body of armed Moorshedabad Ryots

forcibly rescued the prisoner near Radhanuggur in this Division, and threatened to destroy Mr. Doyle's Factory in consequence of the intimation he had given me: I have therefore despatched a small party of Sepoys for that gentleman's protection. The whole country from Aurungabad to the boundary of this Division are of one mind, and will not even allow those inclined to cultivate to do so. Ryots meet by beat of tom-tom in very great numbers both by day and night, as I have myself witnessed last night and night before and this morning. Mr. Lyon is threatened at Bunyagaon, the Factory surrounded by highly excited Ryots, and a *fracas* momentarily expected: Cuddumsar Factory, near Bunyagaon, said to have been looted. Gomastah of Doobreebunna Factory said to have been severely beaten, and Furteepore Factory across the River, in Jellas Mullah, said to have been plundered of all Factory papers. No Magisterial Authorities between Berhampore and my Division, distance seventy miles; Ryots, therefore, have it all their own way. Planters and their servants are confined to their houses, and, if energetic measures are not at once taken, the conspiracy will extend upwards towards Maldah District and this Division; Ryots put up by Zemindars and their Subordinates.

Telegraph Message from the Assistant Commissioner, Sonthal Pergunnahs, Rajmahal, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta,—(No. 3015, dated 21st March 1860.)

JUST received intimation from Mr. Lyon that he has been attacked by hosts of men and still more are assembling. He entreats assistance; Bunyagoan is in the Moorshedabad Division, not mine. May I go with my remaining Goorkha Sepoys, 20 in number.

Telegraph Message from the Secretary to Government of Bengal, Calcutta, to the Telegraph Office, Rajmahal,—(No. 1158, dated 22nd March 1860, 10-45 A. M.)

PLEASE forward by express the following very urgent Message to Mr. W. L. Robinson, the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Pergunnahs,

whereever he may be: *Message*,—Go with all possible expedition to Moorshedabad, where you have been appointed to officiate as Magistrate and Collector; make over charge of your present Office to Mr. Yule, by letter.

Telegraph Message from A. R. THOMPSON, ESQ., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta, to B. WOOD, ESQ, Assistant Commissioner, Rajmahal, —(No. 1131, dated 22nd March 1860, 12-20 P. M.)

YOU are vested with powers of a Magistrate in the District of Moorshedabad. Take charge at once of the Aurungabad Sub-Division. Take as many Military Police as you can get. Troops will be sent to you up the line of Railway as fast as possible. Always put the date and hour of your Telegrams.

Telegraph Message from Calcutta, 22nd March, Noon, from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to Rampore Haut, to MR. PERRY or MR. HAMPTON.

"Please forward the following very urgent message by the express to Mr. W. M. Beaufort, the Magistrate of Moorshedabad: *Message*,—Proceed yourself at once to the disturbed part of your District East of the Bhagarutty, and call on the Officer Commanding at Berhampore for such troops as are necessary for the purpose of preventing any breach of the peace or restoring order. Mr. B. Wood has been put in charge of Aurungabad Sub-division. Troops for that Sub-Division will be provided from Soorie. You and Mr. Alexander must yourselves look after the portion of the District on the East of the Bhagarutty."

From A. R. THOMPSON, ESQ., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to F. GOULDSBURY, ESQ., Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(No. 1086, dated Fort William, the 22nd March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed by the Lieutenant Governor to request that, immediately on the receipt of this letter, you will proceed to Berhampore, and report your arrival there to this office.

From F. GOULDSBURY, Esq., Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(dated Berhampore, 27th March 1860.)

SIR,

I have the honor to report my arrival at this Station, in conformity with the instructions communicated to me in the Junior Secretary's letter, which I received on Saturday last.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Traffic Manager, E. I. R. Howrah,—(dated 22nd March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to request that you will be good enough to cause accommodation to be provided for taking about 250 men and 2 horses of the 3rd Bengal Police Battalion from Raneegunge to Synteah as soon as Lieutenant Adams, at Raneegunge, gives notice of the Detachment being ready to start. A special train will be required.

From the Traffic Manager of the E. I. Railway Co., to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 136, dated, Howrah Station, the 22nd March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of the 22nd instant. In reply I beg to say I cannot make an arrangement for a special train on the vague notice given by you. The Railway from Raneegunge to Synteah is two distinct lines; both a single and a special could not be run with safety without proper instructions from this office. If you can let me know when the Police really require to be sent, there are two trains, one by day and the other by night, by which I can arrange it, and every exertion shall be used to meet your requirements.

From A. R. THOMPSON, Esq., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to Major F. D. ATKINSON, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.—(No. 1066, dated the 22nd March 1860.)

at once issue for sending this evening two Companies and an Officer from the Alipore Regiment along the line of Railway to Pulsa, a Station on the line between Synthea and Rajmahal.* The Officer in Command of the two Companies may be directed to await the instructions of Mr. Browne Wood, the Magistrate at that Station.

From MAJOR F. D. ATKINSON, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Deputy Quarter Master General of the Army —(No. 1048, Council Chamber, Fort William, dated the 22nd March 1860)

SIR,

IN transmitting to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, No. 1066, dated 22nd March 1860, requesting the despatch this evening of two Companies and an Officer from the Alipore Regiment along the line of Railway to Pulsa, I am directed to state that if the party cannot be furnished from that Regiment, it must be sent from Barrackpore.

No. 1049.

COPY of the foregoing forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, with reference to his office letter No. 1066, dated 22nd instant.

From A. R. THOMPSON, ESQ., Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.—(No. 1133, dated the 23rd March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your docket No. 1049, of yesterday's date, relative to the despatch of two Companies and an Officer of the Alipore Regiment to Pulsa. As you have already been informed by my demi-official communication of yesterday's date that the Lieutenant Governor did not on further consideration require this Force, I have only to repeat that it will not be necessary to act upon my first letter.

Telegraph Message from the Assistant Commissioner, Rajmahal, to A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta,—(No. 2172, dated the 22nd March, 1860—8-20 P. M.)

I leave immediately for Bunyagaon. Furrell reached that place last night; he has apprehended and sent to this for safe custody one of the chief conspirators. Mr. Lyon was attacked yesterday by a very large concourse of people; he and his servants wounded seven of the assailants; two have since died, two more expected to die. I will remain with Furrell till further orders. Are the proceedings to be in English or the Vernacular? Bukkarabad Factory papers destroyed night before last.

Telegraph Message from Calcutta, 23rd March, 1-40 p. m., from Secy. to Govt. of Bengal, to Rajmahal, to Mr. B. Wood.

The Proceedings should be in the language usual in the Sub-Division; for the present, and until further orders, you will remain in charge of the Sub-Division of Aurungabad. Mr. Furrell will also have work enough. Report daily till all is quiet. Captain Pughe, of the 3rd Police Battalion, with four or five hundred of his men, were to start for Synthea or further, if possible, by rail yesterday, and will communicate with you. Keep him informed of your movements, and where you would wish him to proceed to.

Telegraph Message from the Assistant Commissioner, Camp Bunyagaon, *vid* Rajmahal, to Secretary to Government of Bengal, Calcutta,—(No. 2522, dated 24th March, 2-3 P. M.)

Two of the ringleaders have been apprehended; matters appear to be somewhat quietening down; some Ryots have returned to their Indigo cultivation and others following. The Magistrate of Maldah has arrived at Bhogwanpore Factory and inquiring into the Bukkred Factory plunder; affairs appear to be more quiet across the River. Beaufort has arrived at Soonee, (Sooty?) hope to meet him to-morrow. He has one

hundred of 73rd Regiment. Captain Paghe has two hundred and fifty men coming our way. Mr. Furrell has sent him a message to say one hundred men would be sufficient to guard this part of the country. We will post them at Dhoolian as the most centrical locality. I think one hundred men will now be sufficient, as one hundred of the 73rd will be near at hand. It will be difficult to feed a large number of troops down here.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated the 24th March, to the Magistrate of

(1.) Rajshahye.
(2.) Beerbhoom.
(3.) Bancoorah.
(4.) Joint Magistrate of Raneegunge.
(5.) Deputy Commissioner S. P. at Godda.
(6.) Assistant Commissioner ditto at Rajmahal.
(7.) Nyn Doomka.
(8.) Pakour.
(9.) Sub-Assistant Commissioner S. P. at Deoghur.
(10.) Magistrate of Midnapore.
(11.) Hooghly.
(12.) Burdwan.
(13.) Deputy Magistrate of Serampore.
(14.) Jehanabad.
(15.) Magistrate of Nuddeah.
(16.) 24 Pergunnahs.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Lieutenant Governor to request that you will take immediate steps for having all Guards that have hitherto been supplied to your Station from the * Bengal Police Battalion, including those for the Jail and Treasury, immediately replaced by Burkundauzes, if they have not already been so replaced, reporting that you have done so to the Inspector of Police Battalions in Bengal.

* Enter in No. 1 2nd.
Ditto „ „ 2 to 9 3rd.
Ditto „ „ 10 to 14 4th.
Ditto „ „ 15 to 16 6th.

2. Should you not be able to obtain the services of Burkundauzes on the old rate of pay, you are hereby authorized to engage them at higher rates not exceeding Rupees 6 each per month. The Guards of the Military Police when relieved by Burkundauzes will become available to you for general service.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Inspector of Military Police Battalions in Bengal,—(No. 1183, dated the 24th March 1860.)

SIR,

I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that orders have been issued to the Magistrates at the several Stations, which have been supplied with Guards from the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th Bengal Police Battalions, to have all those Guards immediately replaced by Burkundauzes, reporting the same to you.

2. You are requested to order the Guards in the several Districts noted in the margin to join their Head Quarters. Those in Nuddea will be at the disposal of the Magistrate for general service.

Chuprah,	Nyadoomka,	Hooghly,
Mozufferpore,	Deoghur,	Serampore,
Beerbhoom,	Godda,	Jehanabad,
Bancoorah,	Pakour,	Burdwan,
Ranegunge,	24 Perghs,	Rajshahye,
Rajmahal,	Midnapore,	Calcutta.

3. The Guards at Chuprah and Mozufferpore should be relieved by Detachments of the Seikh Battalion, who should be transferred.

Telegraph Message from C. J. HAMPTON, ESQ., Rampore Haut, to A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta,—(No. 144, dated the 24th March 1860.)

THE following just received from Mr. Beaufort in reply to your telegram to him. "I am off at once with one hundred of the 73rd Goorkhas to Aurungabad. I sent off forty men of the Police Battalion, whom the Commissioner had sent over here at my request. Mr. Furrell took charge of the Sub-Division on the 21st, and has already gone to the spot. The only news I have at present is a reported attack on the Baniagram Factory, which was defended, and on the Backarabad Factory, in the Maldah District."

No. 1244.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Government of India, in the Home Department.

From A. R. Young, Esq. Secretary to the Government of Bengal to W. M. Beaufort, Esq. Magistrate of Moorshedabad, Aurungabad—(No. 1208, Fort William, dated the 26th March 1860)

Sir,

With reference to your Telegram, without date, received *via* Rampore Haut, I am directed to observe that, in the message sent to you on the 22nd instant, you were informed that Troops for the Sub-Division of Aurungabad would be provided from Soorie. It was therefore unnecessary to take other Troops there. You were instructed also to attend to the part of your District to the East of the Bhaugerutty, and you were informed that Mr. B. Wood would have charge of the Sub-Division of Aurungabad. If, however, there is no appearance of disturbance in the Eastern part of your District, you were right, the Lieutenant-Governor observes, to go to Aurungabad, but otherwise it will probably be right for you to return to the East of the Bhaugerutty, leaving Mr. B. Wood for the present in charge of the Sub-Division, with Mr. Furrell to assist him.

2. If, as is probable, there are more men now in the Aurungabad Sub-Division than are required, some of them should be sent over to the Maldah side, to be at the disposal of the Magistrate of that District, in dealing with the disturbances which are reported to have broken out there.

Telegraph Message from A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to Mr. W. Hampton, Rempore Haut—(No. 231, dated 25th March 1860.)

Please forward the following message to Mr. Beaufort wherever he may be.—

"If you have more men in Aurungabad than are wanted, send some over to the Maldah side to be at the disposal of Magistrate; send back the Detachment of 73rd Goorkhas if they are not required.

"Mr. Wood's message of the 24th has been received. He will remain in charge of the Sub-Division for the present."

Telegraph Message from the Assistant Commissioner of Rajmahal, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 2700, dated Camp Bunyagaon, *vid* Rajmahal, the 25th March 1860, 10 P. M.)

SUNDAY; only news to-day is from Mr. Hedger, of Turtepoor, Maldah Division. His factory papers have not been plundered. He writes 24th instant. There is an uneasy feeling in lot Ranee Hattee which runs along side of one for eight or nine miles, and I am told the Myut Duffadar has written to the Head Mundel in lot Enaitolla Chokey that unless his people join the league they will not be allowed to eat or smoke or intermarry with Heennyut's people. A lot of Ryots bedakhilled Mr. Foggo's Peons 2 days since. Ranee Hattee Ryots have combined to sow Indigo for McArthur's new factory of Simultola. If they break out now, and again they must I don't see what is to save this concern. A hundred sepoys from Rampore Beaulia, which is about 35 miles from Ranee Hattee and Simultola, would tend to quiet the country much. Mr. Spankie is inquiring into Bukkrabad Factory plunder case, and is 25 miles distant from Ranee Hattee.

Telegraph Message from Captain PUGHE, Pulsa, Major PLOWDEN, Private Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Calcutta—(No. 157, Packour, 25th March 1860.)

ARRIVED here this morning. The Junghipore Magistrate reports everything quiet on both sides the river. I shall send him a Detachment chiefly for the purpose of showing themselves. I remain here with the main body until I receive orders from Calcutta. I have halted the men who were on the way up to join me. More by post.

No. 1245.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Telegraph Message from Alipore, 26th March, 1-40 P. M., from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to Puckour *vid* Pulsa, to Captain PUGHE.

You must leave at least one European and one good Native Officer and one hundred men in the Junghypore Sub-Division, to be at the disposal of Mr. Wood. If troops are required in Maldah you must send a detachment there or go yourself as circumstances may require.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Magistrate of Moorshedabad, (No. 1204 dated Fort William, the 26th March 1860.)

SIR,

ALTHOUGH it is known to the Lieutenant-Governor that serious disturbances broke out in the Aurungabad Division of your District on the 21st instant, and accounts of these disturbances are published in the Calcutta newspapers of last evening, no intimation of what has happened has been received from you up to the present time.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor cannot but regard this silence on your part as highly reprehensible, as it shows either that you had no knowledge of these serious occurrences within your own jurisdiction, or knowing them failed to report them at once to Government, as it was your duty to have done. I am directed to express the dissatisfaction of the Lieutenant-Governor with your conduct on this matter, and to warn you against similar negligence in future.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division, (No. 1206 dated Fort William, the 26th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to forward to you a copy of letters this day addressed to the Magistrates of Moorshedabad and Maldah respectively, and I am to request that you will instruct all the Magistrates under you to report direct and immediately, however concisely, for the information of the Lieutenant-Governor, every case of serious disturbance that occurs in their Districts.

From the Joint Magistrate of Berhampore, per E. I. Railway Telegraph, to A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., to the Secretary Government of Bengal, Calcutta,—(No. 146 dated 25th March 1860.)

SIR,

MR. LYON'S Factory at Baniagram attacked between 6 and 7 A. M. of 21st, by large body of Ryots.

Two Ryots killed, others wounded. Pioneer arrived off the place at the time, sent assistance.

Ryots then dispersed.

Murod Biswas, instigator of this, seized and now on way to Berhampore. Impioneer at 11 A. M. of 22nd.

All reported quiet at Baniagram, Dhullian, and surrounding villages. Full particulars are coming by letter.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Joint Magistrate of Berhampore,—(No. 1258, dated the 27th March 1860.)

SIR,

WITH reference to your telegraph message reporting that Mr. Lyon's Factory at Baniagram had been attacked and two Ryots killed and others wounded, I am directed to point out to you that you have not dated the message. Neither was it, nor your demi-official letter on the same subject, received till after the Lieutenant Governor had seen an account of the affair in the newspapers.

From H. W. ALEXANDER, ESQ., Officiating Joint Magistrate of Moorshedabad, to A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 247, dated Berhampore, the 29th March 1860.)

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter No. 1258, of the 27th instant, I have the honor to state in reply, that the telegraphic message I sent was despatched on the 25th instant from Synthea; my demi-official letter was written on the 24th, the date being accidentally omitted by me. Notice of the attack on Mr. Lyon's Factory at Baniagram was received from Mr. Furrell, Assistant Magistrate, at Jungipoor, on the 23rd instant.

From W. M. Beaufort, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Moorshedabad, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 242, dated Berhampore, the 29th March 1860.)

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 1204, of the 26th instant, conveying to me his Honor the Lieutenant Governor's displeasure at my negligence in not having reported at once the occurrence of so serious an outbreak as the attack on the Indigo Factory at Baniagram, I have the honor to state that as I was on the point of stepping into my palkee at 4 P. M. on Friday the 23rd instant to proceed to the scene of disturbance, in obedience to your order, received by telegraph that morning, the Officiating Joint Magistrate, Mr. Alexander, sent to me Mr. Furrell's demi-official letter, reporting the outrage, which had just arrived. I at once on the back of Mr. Alexander's note wrote to him in pencil requesting him to send to you Mr. Furrell's letter in original, and also by telegraph an abstract of its contents.

2. I have now the honor to enclose a copy of a letter which I addressed to Mr. Alexander, and of his reply, explaining why my instructions were not carried out, and you were left so long in ignorance of the particulars of the riot. And the accompanying Electric Telegraph Department receipt will show you when the message which Mr. Alexander eventually sent to Synthea was received there.

3. I hope that his Honor the Lieutenant Governor, from whose censure I am very anxious to clear myself, will consider this explanation satisfactory, and will absolve me from all blame in the matter.

From W. M. Beaufort, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Moorshedabad, to H. W. Alexander, Esq., Officiating Joint Magistrate of Moorshedabad,—(No. 238, dated Berhampore, the 28th March 1860.)

Sir,

With reference to the accompanying letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, may I request the favor of your explaining why Mr. Furrell's report, which I sent to you for transmission to Government on the 23rd instant, when I was on the point of getting into my palkee to proceed to the disturbed District, was not forwarded at once to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal for the Lieutenant-Governor's information?

2. May I request that you will reply to this letter at once, as I am exceedingly anxious to clear myself as soon as I can from the imputation of "highly reprehensible negligence."

From H. W. ALEXANDER, Esq., Officiating Joint Magistrate of Moorshedabad to W. M. BEAUFORT, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Moorshedabad,—(No. 239, dated Berhampore, the 28th March 1860.)

SIR,

IN reply to your letter No. 238, of this date, I beg to state that having read Mr. Furrell's letter on the 23rd instant, I sent it on to you, explaining my reasons for so doing; it was returned from you, but the Chaprassee who brought it *never* told me that a letter written by you conveying certain instructions to me was inside the said envelope. I therefore thought that you had given all necessary orders, concerning the report made by Mr. Furrell of the disturbance at Baniagram. The next morning the 24th, by the *merest chance*, Mr. Pigou the Judge called at my house and asked me if I had heard anything further concerning the rumours of disturbances in the North of the District. I handed him Mr. Furrell's letter, and then for *the first time* discovered inside the envelope your instructions to me concerning Mr. Furrell's letter, written on my note to you of the previous day. I immediately despatched a telegram by a Chaprassee of mine to Synthea to Mr. A. Young, together with Mr. Furrell's letter and two others subsequently received from him reporting all quiet at Baniagram. The said telegraphic message, from the enclosed receipt it will be seen, was despatched on the 25th instant; I regret extremely that this delay should have occurred in transmitting Mr. Furrell's letter to Calcutta, but I beg to assure you that until I placed the said letter in the hands of Mr. Pigou on the morning of the 24th, I was totally unaware that you had given me any orders to carry out in the said letter. I trust this explanation may exonerate me from any supposed wilful negligence in carrying out your orders.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal. to the Officiating Magistrate of Moorshedabad,—(No. 1447, dated the 2nd April 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 242, of the 29th ultimo, reporting the circumstances under which you

hope to be exonerated from the blame imputed to you in orders dated the 26th ultimo, for not having brought to notice the serious disturbances which occurred in connection with certain Indigo Factories in your District, and to inform you in reply that the Lieutenant-Governor considers your explanation to be entirely satisfactory.

From F. GOULDSBURY, Esq., Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 1Ct. dated Berhampore, the 28th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for the information of the Lieutenant Governor, that I have just had a conference with Mr. Beaufort, who has returned from the scene of the late disturbances and has informed me that he left everything perfectly quiet and likely to remain so, as long as the Sub-Divisional Authorities are out and there is a force at hand to do their bidding.

2. As Mr. Beaufort has kept the Government regularly informed of his proceedings, it is unnecessary for me to recapitulate them. It may suffice to remark that both he and Mr. Furrell have acted with promptness and energy, and done all that lay in their power to put down the disturbances and prevent the infection spreading further as was at one time feared.

3. I am glad to learn from Mr. Beaufort that Mr. Spankie had proceeded to the disturbed part of his District, and was taking proper measures for the preservation of the peace in that quarter; no further apprehension need therefore be entertained, as far as the Moorshedabad and Maldah Districts are concerned, while the Detachments of the Police Battalion are kept there.

4. Some of the leaders in the attack on Mr. Lyon's Factory at Bunyagaon have been apprehended, and active measures being taken for the capture of the remainder, four of whom have, I am informed, gone to Rampore Bauleah, with the ostensible purpose of presenting a petition to my Circuit.

5. As Mr. Beaufort's presence is required here as Collector, on account of the quarterly sales, I have authorized him to depute the Officiating Joint Magistrate, Mr. Alexander, to watch this side of the Bhagiruttee, though this precaution seems scarcely necessary.

6. As there seems to be no necessity for my remaining here beyond the present week, I purpose returning to Bauleah on Saturday evening, to admit of my presiding at the examination of the Assistants on Monday the 2nd proximo. I shall besides be in a more central position as regards the four Indigo Districts* there, than I should be by remaining at this Station, where communication with three of them would be delayed.

* Moorshedabad, Maldah, Rajshahye, Pubnah.

7. Mr. Muspratt is doing well in Pubna, and I trust the arrangements made before I left Bauleah, for preventing further disturbances in Rajshahye, will have the desired effect.

8. A full report of the attack on Mr. Lyon's Factory, in which 4 of the assailants appear to have lost their lives, shall be submitted on completion of the inquiry.

P. S.—I annex copies of two reports from the Officiating Joint Magistrate of Moorshedabad, dated the 24th and 25th instant.

From H. W. Alexander, Esq., Officiating Joint Magistrate of Moorshedabad, to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division.—(No. 27, dated Berhampore, the 24th March 1860.)

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 23, of the 14th instant, I have the honor to report for your information, that on the 22nd instant Mr. Furrell, the Assist. Magistrate of Jungipore, reported from Bunyagaon, that on the previous day between 6 and 7 A. M. a large party of Ryots armed with spears and tulwars &c., had attacked the Factory belonging to Mr. Lyon with the intention of plundering it and murdering the proprietor.

2. Mr. Lyon had only with him at the time some few Burkundazes, and as matters were very serious indeed, he fired upon the mob; one Ryot was killed on the spot, six wounded, one of whom has subsequently died. At the same time the "Pioneer" very providentially arrived opposite the factory and on intimation being given to those on board, a party came to the rescue of the inmates of the Factory, and the Ryots on this ultimately dispersed. Mr. Furrell reports it as a notorious fact, and further corroborated by the confession of one of the wounded men, that one Morad Biswas had been for three days previously inciting the Ryots of the surrounding villages to commit these open

and unlawful acts of violence. The said individual has been since apprehended, and is now on his way to Berhampore on board the "Pioneer;" of his arrival I will duly inform you. It appears this attack was totally unprovoked, and Mr. Lyon seems to have acted purely on the defensive; in fact had it not been for the timely arrival of the "Pioneer," there is no doubt that the Ryots would have murdered those of the Factory people who fell into their hands.

3. Mr. Furrell further mentions that a large party of Ryots are said to have attacked the Buckrabad Factory in the Maldah District, and to have entirely plundered and otherwise destroyed it, and that the said band, it was rumoured, intended recrossing the river to attack Urmooree in the same way; subsequently letters received from Mr. Furrell to-day show that matters have since quieted down at Bunyagaon Dhullian and the surrounding neighbourhood. I have forwarded Mr. Furrell's letters in original to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, at the request of Mr. Beaufort, who started yesterday for Arungabad. Should any further information respecting these affairs arrive, I will immediately acquaint you with the same.

4. A party of the Police Battalion consisting of 40 men went yesterday morning to the scene of these disturbances, and I issued orders to several Darogahs to send as many Burkundazes as could be spared to Bunyagaon; a Detachment moreover of the 73rd Native Infantry under command of a European Officer, proceeded yesterday to the spot, in accordance with a telegraphed order received yesterday from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

From H. W. Alexander, Esq., Officiating Joint Magistrate of Moorshedabad, to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division,—(No. 28, dated Berhampore, the 25th March 1860.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that from a letter received to-day from Mr. Furrell, dated the 23rd instant, 1 P. M., it seems that since the arrest of Morad Biswas, mentioned in my letter No. 27 of yesterday's date, matters have entirely quieted on this side the Ganges; no assemblies of Ryots are now to be found.

2. A small force of Military Police stationed in the immediate neighbourhood, Mr. Furrell says, will prove quite sufficient for the maintenance of the peace.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(No. 1365, dated the 30th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1 Ct., dated the 28th instant, and in reply to inform you that the Lieutenant Governor approves of your proposal to leave Berhampore for Rampore Beauleah in time to be present at the examination of Assistants on the 2nd proximo.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor anxiously awaits the report promised in the 8th para. of your letter regarding the serious affair of the attack upon Mr. Lyon's Factory. It is satisfactory to him to find that several of the ringleaders in such an attack as appears to have been made on Mr. Lyon are already in custody, and he has no doubt that every exertion is being made to apprehend the remainder. Such an outrage as is reported to have been committed on this occasion must be most severely and promptly punished, whatever caused it. The Lieutenant-Governor desires that you will place the investigation of this case and of all others now pending, or which may arise in the Aurungabad Sub-Division, in the hands of Mr. B. Wood, who is now in charge of the Sub-Division.

3. But it is necessary also to ascertain the reasons which actuate so large a number of the usually peaceable inhabitants of Bengal to make such a violent and murderous attack as is represented to have been made upon this particular Factory.

4. In such cases, until the affair is thoroughly investigated, there must always be a suspicion that violence so extraordinary was resorted to, either as a means of defence against some threatened injury of an intolerable nature, or in revenge for some such injury which, in the belief of the persons concerned, could not be prevented or punished or remedied by the Law as practically administered.

5. It is therefore specially incumbent on the Magisterial Officers of a District in which such an outrage has occurred, to probe the affair to

the bottom; and this must be done not only for the vindication of character, where the outrage has been unprovoked, and for the prosecution of all leading offenders against the Law, on the one side as well as on the other, where it has been provoked; but also for the purpose of ascertaining how far the legal system in force, or its administration by the Local Officers, may be fairly held responsible for the breach of the peace that has occurred. The Lieutenant-Governor desires that the attention of the District Officers may be specially directed to these remarks.

Telegraph Message from the Assistant Commissioner, Camp Bunyagaon, 9 p. m. *vid* Rajmahal 4-30 p. m., to the Secretary to Government of Bengal,—(No. 2890, dated 27th March 1859.)

CAPTAIN Pughe arrived at Dhoolian, 6 miles South of this, to-day. Mr. Furrell has gone down there to arrange for Russut, shelter, etc. Adjutant Cologan arrived here yesterday with 80 men, and will stay here for the present. Mr. Spankie has asked for troops from Rampore Bauleah. Captain Pughe will probably send some men from Dhoolian, matter appears quiet. Four has gone down to Rampore Baulcah to petition Commissioner. Intimation of same has been sent both to Commissioner and Magistrate and to apprehend them. Hear from Beaufort that Commissioner had arrived at Berhampore. Inquiry into late outrage progressing, and will proceed to Dowliah in a couple of days.

From F. GOULDSBURY, ESQ., Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William—(No. 8Ct., dated Rajshahye, the 30th March 1860.)

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 1Ct., dated the 28th instant, I have the honor to subjoin the following extract of a communication which I have just received from Mr. Furrell, dated Camp Dhullian, 6 P. M. of the 28th instant, for the Lieutenant-Governor's information.

2. "All is perfectly quiet throughout the Sub-Division, and I hear no further disturbances on the Maldah side of the river. I joined Captain Pughe at this place yesterday. Mr. Wood continuing the investigation at Bunyagaon. A Detachment of 25 men of the 3rd Bengal Police Battalion was sent across to Buckrabad yesterday afternoon, at the request of Mr. Spankie, and at the same time, 20 men were despatched to Urmaree to protect the Factory at that place. About 40 of the Military Police have been left with Mr. Wood at Bunyagaon and we have 150 here."

3. Mr. Furrell adds that the number of Troops in the Sub-Division is, in his opinion, amply sufficient for the preservation of the peace; indeed, he anticipates no further disturbance, and believes that "should those ringleaders who went to Rampore Bauleah be opportunely arrested, the Ryots will begin cultivating as usual."

4. The arrest of Lalchand Shah and Ruttun Mundul, (two of the ringleaders in the attack on Mr. Lyon's Factory who came to my Court to present a petition,) has already been communicated to you demi-officially, and will, it is hoped, have the effect anticipated by Mr. Furrell.

5. Captain Pughe, from whom I have also heard, corroborates Mr. Furrell's report as to the quiet prevailing in the neighbourhood of Dhullian, which appears to have been the centre of the disaffection.

6. I have requested Mr. Beaufort to send back the Detachment of 60 men which were supplied from the 2nd Police Battalion at Bauleah, at his requisition, as their services may be required in the Rajshahye or Pubnah Districts, and they can be replaced here by a Detachment from Captain Pughe's corps, if necessary.

No. 1415.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Government of India, in the Home Department.

From Captain PUGHE, Pulsa, per E. I. Railway Telegraph, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta,—(No. 168, Camp Dhullian, 28th March 1860.)

SIR,

I SENT off a party to Maldah last night. I am here with the Magistrate, Mr. Furrell, in the centre of the disaffected District: every-

thing is quiet. Parties are posted at every point where there is the slightest chance of a disturbance.

The number of men at my disposal is ample: from all we can hear all is quiet on the other side of the Ganges.

No. 1319.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Government of India, Home Department.

From CAPTAIN PUGHE, Pulsa, per E. I. Railway Telegraph, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta—(No. 169, Camp Dhullian, dated 28th March 1860.)

SIR,

PLOWDEN mentioned that a Telegram has been sent to me about Maldah; I have not received it. The party mentioned in mine of this morning was sent at the request of the Magistrate, and was a small one. In case more men are requested, I will despatch another party to night, but we have heard nothing here of any disturbances, although we are on the opposite bank of the river.

No. 1318.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Government of India, in the Home Department.

From CAPTAIN PUGHE, per E. I. Railway Telegraph, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta,—(No. 177, Camp Dhullian, dated the 29th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE this morn[redacted]heard from my Detachment on the other side of the Ganges.

All quiet in Maldah; the same here; but there appears to be an uneasiness among the Ryots, and many have sent away their families. I have strong parties moving about the District in four different directions. It has a very good effect, and I do not anticipate any disturbance.

No. 1375.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Telegragh Message from Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Bunyagaon, *vid* Rajmahal, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 3081, dated the 29th March 1860, 10-20 A. M.)

SIR,

No extra news: all quiet: inquiry progressing.

No. 1340.

Copy forwarded for the information of the Government of India, Home Department.

Telegraph Message from Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Bunygaon, *vid* Rajmahal, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta (No. 3394, dated 30th March, 1860. 2-15 P. M.)

SIR,

LALLCHUND SAO and Ruttun Mundul, two of the chief conspiartors apprehended at Berhampore. All quiet here and across the Ganges.

Telegraph Message from Captain PUGHE, Bu[illegible]gaon, *vid* Rajmahal, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 3334, dated the 30th March, 1860, 8-15 P. M.)

I HAVE directed the Detachment of the Behar Light Horse to move down here from Rajmahal, should they not have received orders

to the contrary. They will be very useful—Mr. Wood agrees with me in thinking so.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to Captain J. R. PUGHE, Commanding 3rd Bengal Police Battalion,—(No. 1392, dated the 31st March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram o yesterday's date, intimating that you have directed the two Troops of the Behar Light Horse at Rajmahal to move down to Bunyagaon, and in reply to inform you that the Lieutenant Governor approves of the arrangement. It will probably be expedient to divide the two Troops hereafter.

Telegraph Message from CAPTAIN PUGHE, Dullian *vid* Rajmahal, to Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta,—(dated the 3rd April 1860.)

SIR,

CAMP Dhullian, the 2nd April.—Cavalry arrived this morning. One hundred and fifty Sabres. I shall keep forty here, send eighteen to Maldah. forty to Beauleah, and remainder to Moorshedabad. All quiet.

No 1549.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Government of India, in the Home Department.

From Lieutenant G. J. RENVES, Commanding 2nd Bengal Police Battalion, to MAJOR T. RATTRAY, Inspector Military Police Battalions, Lower Provinces,—(No. 209, dated Rampore Beauliah, the 3rd April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for your information that the Detachment of 100 men under Lieutenant O'Connor reached Maldah

on the 30th ultimo, and that on the 1st instant, at the request of the Magistrate, the former Officer despatched a Detachment of 25 men under a Jemandar to Buckrabad.

2. I have also to inform you that a Detachment as per margin, under command of Sub-Lieutenant Issurree Sing, marched from this this morning for Pubnah, making a total number of 150 men exclusive of Non-commissioned Officers sent to that place. The Sub-Lieutenant will assume charge of the whole.

4 Havildars.
4 Naicks.
80 Sepoys.

No. 219.

COPY forwarded to Secretary to Government of Bengal for information.

From Major T. RATTRAY, Inspector of Military Police Battalions in Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 223, dated Barrackpore, the 7th April 1860.)

SIR,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Lieutenant Governor that a Squadron of the Behar Horse, under the Command of Lieutenant P. Davis, reached Rajmahal on the 31st ultimo, having got over 210 miles in 6 nights, being at the rate of 35 miles per night. Such marching does considerable credit, both to Lieutenant Davis and the Irregular Cavalry.

2. Lieutenant Davis is himself at Moorshedabad.

3. By order of Captain Pughe, Lieutenant Davis has distributed his men as per margin.

Moorshedabad,.....	40	Sabres.
Rampore Beauleah	40	„
Rajmahal, ...	40	„
Dhullian, ...	34	„
Maldah, ...	16	„
Lollgolah, ...	16	„
	186.	

4. Captain Pughe reports that he has quite sufficient men with him for whatever work he may have to do, and as he recommends that the Detachments at Bancoorah, Deoghur, and Goddah stand fast for the present, I would beg to second his recommendation, more especially as Cholera and Small Pox have broken out in his camp.

From A. R. Young Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Inspector of Police Battalions,—(No. 1641, dated the 10th April 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 223, dated the 7th instant, reporting the rapid march from Patna to Rajmahal of a Squadron of the Behar Horse under Lieutenant Davis, and in reply to inform you that the Lieutenant Governor considers the zeal and activity displayed by Lieutenant Davis and his men to be very satisfactory.

2. The distribution of these men by Captain Pughe, and that Officer's suggestion that the Detachment of his Battalion at Bancoorah, Deoghur and Goddah, should not at present be moved from those places, are approved.

Telegraph Message from B. Wood, Esq., to Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Calcutta,—(No. dated the 9th April 1860, 12-21 P. M.)

I have apprehended most of the head men concerned in the attack on Mr. Lyon's Factory on the 31st ultimo, and the case will be ready for hearing in a few days. If the case be sent to the Sessions at Berhampore, there will be much delay and every obstacle thrown in the way of conviction by Mooktars and paid Agents of Zemindars: the Police also are much mixed up; in this case prompt punishment is very necessary, and would effectually secure the peace of the District. Mr. Yule's camp is at Rajmahal. I would venture to suggest he be empowered to decide this case at once on parties being present on the spot. Berhampore is fifty miles distant. Please reply through the Pulsa Office, which is nearest this.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to G. U. Yule, Esq., Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, Rajmahal,—(No. 1617, dated the 9th April 1860.

Sir,

The case of certain rioters concerned in the attack on Mr. Lyon's Indigo Factory, situated within the Aurungabad Sub-Division, be-

ing ready for hearing, and it being expedient to try the parties on the spot instead of sending them on for that purpose to Berhampore, I am directed to inform you that the Lieutenant Governor, understanding that you are at present encamped at Rajmahal, has been pleased to vest you with the powers of a Session Judge in Moorshedabad to enable you to try the case in question.

Mr. B. Wood, Deputy Magistrate in charge of a Sub-Division of Aurungabad, who is a Justice of the Peace, has been instructed to administer to you the usual oaths of office.

No. 1688.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Sudder Court.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to B. WOOD, ESQ., Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Sub-Division of Aurungabad,—(No. 1619, dated the 9th April 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed by the Lieutenant Governor to forward for your information the accompanying copy of a letter this day addressed to Mr. G. U. Yule, Commissioner of Bhaugulpore, and to request that you will administer the oaths of office to that gentleman, and forward them duly subscribed and attested to the Register of the Sudder Court.

Telegraph Message from the Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal, to Electric Telegraph Office, Pulsa,—(dated 9th April 1860, 8 P. M.)

MR. YULE has been vested with the powers of a Sessions Judge in Moorshedabad for the purpose of trying the case of the attack on Mr. Lyon's Factory. Send a report as soon as you commit the rioters, and then devote yourself to the case of the complaints against the Factory.

Petition from Juggobundhoo Dutto, of Amdole, in the District of Moorshedabad, to the Hon'ble the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal,—(dated Berhampore, 24th March 1860.)

The humble Petition of Juggobundhoo Dutto, of Amdole, in Thannah Pulsa, within the Sub-Division of Aurungabad, in the District of Moorshedabad.

Most respectfully showeth.

That your Petitioner is the proprietor of a mehal called Turruff Amdole, which has for few years been let in lease to Mr. C. B. Maseyk, owner of the Indigo Factory of Kodum Syer. Being desirous to let the above-mentioned mehal in putnee on advantageous terms, a proclamation was given by your Petitioner, inviting parties willing to take it to offer their terms. Two parties, *viz.* the proprietor of the aforesaid factory and one Baboo Nubbo Coomar Sing, of Mohéshpore, expressed their desire to take the mehal in putnee, but the jumma offered by the latter being higher than that proposed by the former, a settlement was made with the said Baboo, and a conveyance in his name was drawn out on the 21st Maugh last. On the 23rd idem when the people on the part of the putnee holder went to that mehal to take possession of it, Lateewals, Surkeewallahs, and other armed men of Mr. Maseyk, numbering about 400, headed by the Naib and other people of the factory, walked up to your Petitioner's house and surrounded it at about 9 o'clock A. M. Your Petitioner taking fright closed up all the avenues to his house, hurried up stairs, and there together with his family and children shut up in a room. Then the people outside began to cut open the doors to enter within, and though the people of the neighbourhood and the Policemen of the adjacent Fandee were attracted to the spot by the noise and shouts none had pluck to confront such a large body of armed men and to come to the rescue of the beleaguered party. Not succeeding however so soon to cut open the doors, the people of the factory dashed down a part of the cutcha wall surrounding the house by the force of elephants, and made good their entry into the premises.

Then commenced a scene too revolting to humanity, and one which your Petitioner cannot recall in his mind without a chilly sensation of

horror. Zennanah mehal was entered into, women and children dragged forth, their bodies stripped off of all ornaments, their noses and ears torn and lacerated in the operation. All the trunks, chests, recesses of the house were ransacked; the floors of all the rooms excavated in search of hidden treasure, and property consisting of gold, silver (both in specie and bullion) jewels, utensils, wearing apparel, in fine, everything the house contained to the value of (1,00,000) one lac of Rupees was plundered; which, together with your Petitioner and another inmate of the house, by name Hurro Mohun Audikaree, seized and bound by ropes, were carried to the factory of Mr. Maseyk. There for ten days your Petitioner and the said Audhikaree were confined, by the order of the Shaib, in separate places, under a guard of about 10 Burkundauzes, during the day in the jungle, and in godowns by night; the food that was served to them was doled out so sparingly, and after such long intervals, that the suffering they underwent both mentally and physically exceeds all description.

Just after the occurrence, your Petitioner's brother, Pranbundhur Dutto, and his son Beejoygovind Dutto, lodged a complaint in the Assistant Magistrate's Court at Aurungabad, and though the inquiry instituted was one of a lax character, sufficient traces of the plunder were found, and Allad Sing and others in the employ of Mr. Maseyk were called upon to answer to the charge brought against them. Matters coming at this stage, your Petitioner was taken in the presence of Mr. Charles Maseyk and his brother, James Maseyk, and given to understand that if he were to file a rajeenamah and stay the progress of the suit, all would go right with him, his property to be restored and life saved, otherwise the loss of both would be the inevitable consequence. Thus threatened and encouraged with the hope of getting back his property and liberty, he was constrained to yield to the proposal, and was accordingly taken to the Magistrate's Court under the strict surveillance, where he filed his rajeenamah on the 14th Falgoon. Sooner it was done than he was seized and carried back on board a boat and placed in confinement as before.

Your Petitioner's brother being informed of this, proceeded to the Darogah of Thanna Manoola Bazar and sought the aid of him, who whereupon deputed his Moonshee and Burkundauzes and got your Petitioner released.

Your Petitioner having regained his liberty, proceeded to Berhampore and instituted fresh complaint in the Magistrate's Court, detailing the

circumstances and praying for the recovery of his property. Three or four days after the institution of the complaint, the Magistrate took down the deposition of your Petitioner, and has since only called for witnesses. Your Petitioner having been surprised at the apathetic way in which such a serious case was being dealt with, solicited by fresh petition that functionary to take speedy and energetic measures towards the investigation of the case and the search of the factory for the discovery of the property, but to no purpose. Your Petitioner then applied to the Commissioner of Rajshahye, who, having called for and received a kyfeut from the Magistrate to the effect that a case is pending trial, has taken no further steps. The case stands at a dead still. If prompt and energetic measures were taken, everything, as represented by your Petitioner, would have come to light and his property found.

Your Petitioner is now a ruined man; he has lost all he had in the world, and his absence from home at this season entails on him a loss of 50,000 Rupees, for he cannot dare stir out of Berhampore for fear of falling in the hands of the factory people, who are in ambuscade to seize him and put him to death.

After submitting this brief delineation of his case before your Honor, your Petitioner earnestly solicits that your Honor will be graciously pleased to appoint one of his Secretaries to investigate his case; and the expenses that will be incurred on that account will be paid by your Petitioner.

If your Petitioner has ventured a little too far in making such request, his piteous case will speak volumes in his behalf—if duly considered.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From A. R. Young, Esq. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye, (No. 1288, dated 28th March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a petition from one. Juggobundoo Dutto, of Amdole, in Thanna

Pulsa, within the Sub-Division of Aurungabad, bringing to notice a serious case of assault and plunder alleged to have been committed in his house by the factory servants of Mr. C. B. Maseyk, an Indigo Planter, and complaining of the lax and apathetic way in which his case has been dealt with by the Magistrate of Moorshedabad.

The Lieutenant Governor desires me to request that you will call upon the Magistrate for an immediate report on this case, and his explanation in regard to the complaint made against his proceedings.

If the petition is in the main founded on facts, I am desired to request that you will order a searching and thorough inquiry to be made in the Sub-Division. You are aware that the Lieutenant Governor is by no means as yet satisfied with the Magistrate's action, or rather inaction, in the serious affair which happened in Aurungabad last month.

From F. GOULDSBURY, Esq., Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 12 Ct., dated the 31st March 1860.)

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter No. 1288, dated the 28th instant, forwarding copy of a petition from Juggobundoo Dutt, of Amdole, in Thannah Pulsa, I have the honor to annex for the information of the Lieutenant Governor a copy of the explanation furnished on the 12th instant, by the Officiating Joint Magistrate of Moorshedabad, before whom the case is pending, and who has already been directed to submit a full report on completion of the proceedings.

2. The copy of Juggobundoo Dutt's petition will be immediately sent to Mr. Alexander for any further explanation he may desire to offer, regarding the statements therein contained.

From H. W. ALEXANDER, Esq., Officiating Joint Magistrate of Moorshedabad, to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division,—(No. 53, dated Berhampore, the 12th March 1860.)

SIR,

WITH reference to the order conveyed on the back of the enclosed petition, I have the honor to submit an explanation, so far as I am able, of the state of the case mentioned therein.

2. I am of course not able to state what part Mr. Furrell took personally in the matter, an explanation as to the charges brought against him in the said petition coming no doubt more properly from himself; but I can, on a reference to the records of the case, mention what steps appear to have been taken in the said matter.

3. On the 4th of February, Saturday, notice was given by the Darogah of Thannah Pulsa, of the illegal plundering as referred to by the petitioner Pranbundo Dutt. The Darogah himself started immediately to investigate the case, and on the 7th of February, Mr. Furrell went himself to the spot, took the evidence of Bejoygobindo Dutt, nephew to the petitioner, and was engaged on the 7th, 8th and 9th in inquiring and recording the evidence of several witnesses in regard to the said affair.

4. On the 10th he returned to Jungipore, and on the 11th the reply of one defendant in this case was taken; on the same day the petitioner himself appeared in Court, when his deposition was taken down, and on the 18th and 27th the evidence of other witnesses was recorded.

5. On the 18th of February, Bejoygobind filed a petition of compromise in this matter, as did on the 25th Juggobundo Dutt, notwithstanding which, the latter again, on the 1st of March, presented a petition, requesting that his case might be fully inquired into, he having been illegally detained for nearly a month, and having only been released the day previous, (*i. e.*, February 29th;) upon this I took the deposition of the said person, in which he mentioned at length the circumstances of the said plundering of his house, and cited the names of certain parties he wished summoned as his witnesses. This latter has been done. As the case therefore is in an incomplete state as regards the evidence for the prosecution, I am unable to offer an opinion as to the truth or falsity of the charge, but one suspicious point exists in the matter, *viz.*, Juggobundo Dutt, who appeared in Court on *February* the *25th*, and filed a petition of compromise, appeared again on the *1st March* stating he was in confinement until the *29th* of February.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Magistrate of Maldah,—(No. 1205 dated Fort William, the 26th March 1860.)

SIR,

IT has been known to private persons in Calcutta for two or more days past, that serious disturbances in connection with certain Indigo Factories in your District have occurred; but up to the present time no intimation of what has happened has been received from you.

2. The Licutenant-Governor cannot but regard this silence on your part as highly reprehensible, as it shews either that you had no knowledge of these serious occurrences within your own jurisdiction, or knowing them, failed to report them at once to Government, as it was your duty to have done. I am directed to express the dissatisfaction of the Lieutenant-Governor with your conduct on this matter, and to warn you against similar negligence in future.

From F. GOULDSBURY, Esq., Commissioner of Rajshahye, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 501,) Rajshahye, the 24th March 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for the information of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor, that in consequence of reports that have reached me of the probability of disturbances among the Indigo Ryots in certain parts of the Maldah District, I have deemed it advisable to increase the strength of the Detachment of the Military Police Battalion proceeding to take the duties at that Station, to 70 men. Similar Detachments have already been sent to Berhampore and Pubna, on the requisition of the Magistrates of those Districts, but I have not heard of any further disturbances there, and I am in hopes that the circulation of the copies of the Bengallee Notification first received from Government, will have the effect of allaying the present excitement.

2. I shall proceed without delay to Berhampore, in pursuance of the instructions contained in the Junior Secretary's letter No. 1086, of the 22nd instant.

From A. E. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye, (No. 1251, dated 27th March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 501, dated the 24th instant, reporting that on receipt of intelligence of the probability of disturbances among the Indigo Ryots in certain parts of the District of Maldah, you have increased the strength of the Detachment of Military Police proceeding to Maldah to 70 men, and that similar Detachments have been sent to Berhampore and Pubna.

2. The Leutenant Governor approves of your proceedings, and desires me to state that should further reinforcements of the Military Police be wanted, you should apply at once to Captain Pughe, the Commandant of the 3d Battalion, who is in the Junghypore Sub-Division or in that neighbourhood.

From F. Gouldsbury, Esq., Commissioner of Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort Willam,—(No. 518, dated the 26th March 1860.)

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 501, of the 24th instant, I have the honor to report that a full Company of the 2nd Police Battalion, under the command of Licutenant O'Connor, have left for Maldah, and I have sent instructions to the Magistrate to proceed with them to the scene of the disturbances.

2. I have not had any report from Mr. Spankie regarding the attack on the Buckrabad Factory mentioned in the *Hurkaru* Newspaper of the 24th Instant. Indeed, were it not for private information received from an unofficial source, I should be ignorant of any actual disturbances having occurred in the Maldah District, Mr. Spankie having unfortunately chosen this particular time to leave the Station on settlement duty. I could have wished that an Officer of greater promptitude and energy had been in charge of the District at such a crisis.

3. Mr. Beaufort has, I understand, proceeded to Aurungabad, under instructions sent to him by Telegraph, and I hope to learn further particulars of the disturbances in that quarter, on my arrival at Berhampore to-morrow morning.

4. My Maldah correspondent informs me that letters had been intercepted calling upon the Ryots of Mr. Gray's Factories to rise, but no intimation of this has been sent to me by the Magistrate.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I have received a report, from the Magistrate of Rajshahye, of a disturbance in the neighbourhood of Nattore, of which the following are the particulars.

A Mr. Whyte, of the Deegha Factory, while out on horseback, was attacked by some 200 of his Ryots; he himself escaped, but his horse was wounded by a blow from a latee, and one of his servants was severely handled, having his head cut open and much swollen and desfigured in consequence. Mr. Metcalfe, the Assistant in charge of the Nattore Sub-Division (who proceeded to the spot next morning), has succeeded in apprehending about 10 of the parties engaged in this outrage, who are Ryots of Jogendernarin Rae, one of the Pootea Zemindars, who has just attained his majority, an event which terminates the lease of his estates held by the Messrs. Watson under the Court of Wards, and is likely to lead to further disputes.

Under these circumstances, and adverting to the prevalent excitement among the Indigo Ryots, I have sanctioned Mr. Lushington's proposal immediately to dispatch a party of 50 men of the Police Battalion to the scene of the above disturbance, and to depute Mr. Taylor, the Officiating Joint Magistrate, with a similar party, to Pootea, to remain there until the question of the renewal or otherwise of the lease of the Messrs. Watson, is settled. I would also beg leave strongly to urge the expediency of an Officer with full powers being at once appointed to the charge of the Nattore Sub-Division, in the place of Mr. Chapman resigned.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(No. 1368, dated the 30th March 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 518, dated the 26th instant, and in reply to state, that if the 2nd Police Battalion cannot supply men enough for all the Districts of your Division, North of the Ganges, where there is or may be excitement, the Lieutenant-Governor desires that you will call upon Captain Pughe for a sufficient party for Maldah, as he has plenty of men to spare. Thus the Maldah and Moorshedabad Districts may be provided for from Captain Pughe's Battalion and the Ghoorka Regiment.

2. The orders issued by you to Mr. Lushington, the Magistrate of Rajshahye, with reference to the recent outbreak in the Nattore Sub-Division, are approved.

3. With reference to the remarks contained in the second para. of the Postscript to your letter, regarding the expiry of the lease held by Messrs. Watson and Co., of the estate of the Pootea Zemindar Jogendernarain Rae, I am to observe that whilst the peace must be kept, you will of course bear in mind the necessity for all Public Officers scrupulously to abstain from using influence or interfering in any way in what seems to be wholly a private affair of business.

No. 1369.

COPY of para. 1 forwarded to Captain J. R. Pughe, Commandant, 3rd Bengal Police Battalion, for his information.

No. 1370.

Ditto to the Inspector of Police Battalions in Bengal.

From LORD H. U. BROWNE, Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to J. S. SPANKIE, ESQ., Magistrate and Collector of Maldah,—(No. 1372, dated the 30th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to appoint you to officiate, until further orders, as Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Rajshahye.

2. I am desired to state that your present transfer is in consequence of a report from the Commissioner, from which the following is an extract.

"I have not had any report from Mr. Spankie, regarding the "attack in the Buckrabad Factory, mentioned in the *Hurkaru* newspaper "of the 24th instant. Indeed, were it not for private information "received from an unofficial source, I should be ignorant of any actual "disturbance having occurred in the Maldah District, Mr. Spankie "having unfortunately chosen this particular time to leave the Station "on settlement duty. I could have wished that an Officer of greater "promptitude and energy had been in charge of the District at such a "crisis."

From LORD H. U. BROWN, Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to S. H. C. TAYLER Esq., Officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Rajshahye,—(No. 1371, dated the 30th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to appoint you to officiate until further orders as Magistrate and Collector of Malda.

2. You are requested to leave Rajshahye at once, and to take charge of your new Office as soon as possible.

From J. S. SPANKIE, Esq., Magistrate of Malda, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 69, dated Maldah, 30th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1205, dated 26th instant.

I am not aware what reports might have been current in Calcutta regarding the Ryots of this District, but immediately on my hearing of the attack on the Factory of Buckrabad, I wrote to the Commissioner for troops and to you for a copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's Notification. I also issued a Proclamation to the Ryots of this District in which I informed them of my having sent for a Regiment. I then started for Buckrabad, and I should have answered your letter earlier had I been in receipt of it, but I have just returned from the Mofussil, and find it here awaiting my arrival.

Buckrabad Factory was attacked by about 250 or 300 men, who entered the sherishta where the accounts are kept, collected them together and burnt the greatest portion. The rest they threw down a well, which is situated within the compound of the house. They then attacked the residence of Mr. Rich who was absent at that time, carried off several valuable guns and a sword, destroyed his wearing apparel and made a bonfire of his gun cases and some other property. I took the evidence of the plaintiff and his witnesses, and also arrested some of the principal defendants, in all seventeen men, after which I returned to the Station.

There can be no doubt whatever that the Ryots on this side of the Ganges were instigated to this act of violence by Ryots of the Moorshe-

dabad District. Buckrabad Factory belongs to Mr. David Andrew, in whose Factories Kalapanee and Ankoora, the first disturbance in this part of Bengal commenced. The reason of the riot is to me obvious enough. The Ryots had been ill-treated for some time by the Factory servants, and were consequently forced into this rebellion.

I may add that the attack on Buckrabad was unexpected; in fact the absence of Mr. Rich from his own Factory at such a crisis proves the above assertion.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(No. 1448, dated the 2nd April 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a letter* from Mr. Spankie, the Magistrate of Malda, reporting the particulars of an attack made by the Ryots of his District on the Buckrabad Factory.

* No. 69, dated the 30th ultimo.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor considers it very extraordinary that he should receive on the 2nd April the first account from the Magistrates of this very serious case which occurred on the 20th of March. As the usual means of communication were available, the absence of the Magistrate from his Sudder Station does not fully explain this delay.

The Magistrate will of course spare no pains to bring to justice all the leaders in this outrage.

He reports that the Ryots had been forced into this crime (which he with great impropriety of expression terms "rebellion") by the ill-treatment they have suffered for some time past from the Factory servants; but he says nothing of any steps taken for the punishment of those who have so ill-treated the Ryots, or for the protection of the Ryots from a continuance of such ill-treatment from the same servants in future.

This is not a creditable omission. The Magistrate must forthwith proceed to the spot and inquire thoroughly into that side of the case, and if the Factory servants can be proved to be guilty of anything which makes them liable to criminal prosecution, they should be immediately prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the Law.

Similarly if the masters of those servants can be proved guilty of the like conduct, they should be prosecuted in like manner.

Whilst it is absolutely necessary to punish promptly and severely such an outbreak as this, it is no less incumbent on the Magistrate, in the cause of justice and order, to exert himself in order to the punishment or prosecution, if possible, of those guilty of offences which drive poor people to such violent and criminal outrage.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to H. MUSPRATT, ESQ., Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Pubna,—(No. 1191, dated the 24th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to appoint you to officiate as Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Backergunge.

2. On being relieved of your office by Mr. A. J. R. Bainbridge, you will proceed at once to join your appointment at Backergunge.

No. 1192.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner of Dacca for information.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to A. J. R. BAINBRIDGE, ESQ., Officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Backergunge,—(No. 1189, dated the 24th March 1860.)

SIR,

WITH reference to my letter No. 502, of the 20th instant, to the address of the Commissioner of Dacca, giving you leave of absence for three weeks, I am directed to state that the Lieutenant-Governor regrets that the exigencies of the Service render it necessary for him to withhold that indulgence for the present.

2. You have been appointed to officiate as Magistrate and Collector of Pubna, and I am to request that you will join that appointment with all possible expedition.

No. 1190.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner of Dacca for information, in continuation of letter No. 502, of the 20th instant.

From HENRY MUSPRATT, Esq., Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Pubna, to A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(dated Pubna, the 28th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1191, dated the 24th instant, informing me that I have been appointed to officiate as Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Backergunge, and as this appointment is an inferior one to that I now hold, I have the honor to solicit his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal that I may be informed why I have been removed from my present appointment.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to H. MUSPRATT, Esq., Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Pubna,—(No. 1451, dated the 2nd April 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 28th ultimo, requesting to be informed of the grounds of your removal from the acting appointment held by you in the Pubna District, and in reply to state that you have been appointed to act elsewhere because another officer has been appointed to act in Pubna whom the Lieutenant-Governor considers better qualified for the management of that District under existing circumstances than you are.

You must not regard this change at all in the light of a punishment. It is caused by the necessity of having specially selected men in the excited Districts at the present moment.

From F. GOULDSBURY, Esq., Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 546, dated Rajshahye, the 2nd April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for the information of the Lieutenant-Governor, that on my return to Rampore Bauleah yesterday morning, I found that no further disturbance had occurred during my absence.

2. I beg to annex for his Honor's perusal copy of a letter from the Officiating Magistrate of Pubna, No. 144, dated the 27th ultimo, reporting the state of feeling which he found to prevail among the Ryots of Chateean, a factory of Mr. Hills, and of some villages in the Meerpoor Concern; and with reference to the concluding paragraph, to state that I have requested the Officer Commanding the 2nd Police Battalion to increase the strength of the Detachment in the Pubnah District to 150 men.

From HENRY MUSPRATT, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Pubna, to the Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye,—(No. 144, dated Pubnah, the 27th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that a petition having been presented by Azim and others during my absence from the Sudder Station on Collectorate duties, I started for the spot as soon as my tents had arrived.

2. I found that the dispute was between three of the Ryots of Chateean and Mr. A. Hills, of Miton Factory. The Factory lies in the Nuddea District; I found (March 26th) the feelings of the people there and in the neighbouring villages were against the Planters and Indigo cultivation. They objected to the "Planters' beegah" which is measured from time immemorial by a hath of 22 inches. They complained that they were made to cultivate more land in Indigo than they were allowed to cultivate with Dhan. The Ryots of Chateean stated that the Magistrate of Nuddea had come to Dhurrumpore, some 10 or 12 miles from Chateean, and had said no more Indigo was to be grown.

3. They also showed me two papers from the Nuddea Magistrate, but which appear more like copies of orders passed on petitions, and though it is stated in them that Ryots having taken advances are bound to work them out, yet these so called Purwanahs were produced to show that it was the order of Government Indigo should not be grown. After I had explained to the Ryots that it was not for the Government to order the Zemindars that one crop should be grown, and not another, and that if they had entered into agreements they were bound to act up to them, and also warned them against following the evil example of the Ryots in the Nuddea District, the people said that they would not

grow Indigo, and one man said that if I or the Government even said they were to grow Indigo, that they were all determined to be of one mind and oppose the Government. I immediately arrested this man for contempt of Court, and as his words met with words of approval from others, I have put the man on his defence for uttering threatening words likely to cause a serious breach of the peace.

4. I warned all the Ryots that if they were under engagements to sow Indigo, they were bound to do so, and that if they prevented the Planters' people going near the lands or acted hostilely towards them when they went near the village, I should take serious notice of their conduct, and that if on the other hand the Planters, defendants, attempted to oppress them they were to come and complain to me.

5. On the 25th I had asked Mr. Ferrier, of the Meerpore Concern, regarding the feelings of his Ryots. His reply was that they were all quite quiet, and he was not aware of their having any complaints to make. On my way to Chateean I passed 2 or 3 villages belonging to Meerpore, and immediately on seeing me all the Ryots came forward making loud complaints regarding the oppression of the Planter and his people. These Ryots also believed that Government had ordered no more Indigo to be sown, and were thunderstruck when I told them that Government had given no such orders, and that they were bound to act up to their engagements with the Planters. (It is very plain that some evil, disposed persons have been going about spreading the report that Government order no more Indigo to be sown.) When talking to the Ryots and asking how much land they held, and how much of it was sown in Indigo, one man said he held 16 beegahs and 12 were sown in Indigo. On questioning this man later in the day in the presence of the Planter he said he had 25 beegahs and out of it 5 were sown in Indigo. By the Planter's books it appeared he held 32 beegahs not 25.

6. The morning grievances of the Ryots were much altered when speaking before the Planter, who had his papers ready to show the quantity of land held by each Ryot. Another Ryot, an old man, who had begged me to shoot him in the morning as he could not live any longer on account of the oppression of the Planter, on being cross-questioned by the Planter and myself, allowed that he had formerly sown 3 beegahs annually with Indigo, and on petitioning Mr. Ferrier his Indigo cultivation had been reduced to 2 beegahs, and that he now held the jote of another man by which he was bound to grow 5 beegahs in Indigo,

but he had never gone to Mr. Ferrier to ask him to reduce the 5 beegahs to 4 or 3; another grievance was that Mr. Ferrier made the Ryots hedge off the Indigo lands where it bordered on pasture lands; this had been done, the man said, for the last 3 years.

7. There are four villages belonging to Baboo Ramrutton Roy in which Indigo is grown. About 60 of the Ryots came with the Baboo's man to complain of the oppression of the Planter. Many complained that they held no land, and the Ameen of the Factory was in the habit of trying to make them take advances and placing peadahs over them to oppress them. They had never gone to the Factory to complain. Another man's complaint was that he had been ordered by the Ameen to sow 10 cottahs more than his engagement. He had never complained to the Sahib of the Ameen's conduct.

8. I was encamped close to these four villages in January last, and not a single word of complaint was made to me against the Planter or his people.

9. I have returned to Pubnah for the quarterly kist day, and shall leave to-morrow night for the Mofussil to try and keep the District quiet. If the Commanding Officer of the Police Battalion could send me 50 more sepoys, I think it would be very advisable to let me have them, not that I think the Ryots will rise at present, but that hearing of the disturbances in Nuddea they may rise also.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(No. 1568, dated the 9th April 1860)

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 546, dated the 2nd instant, and in reply to state that the Lieutenant Governor approves of your instructions to the Commandant of the 2nd Bengal Police Battalion to increase the strength of the Detachment in the Pubna District to 150 men. You are already aware that more men are available in your Division from Captain Pughe's Battalion, if required.

2. With reference to the Officiating Magistrate of Pubnah's letter No. 144, of which a copy is annexed to yours now under acknowledg-

ment, I am directed to observe that it will be proper for you to direct Mr. Muspratt, when Ryots complain of being "compelled" to cultivate more land with Indigo than they are "allowed" to cultivate with Rice, to explain to them carefully that no one has lawful power to compel them to cultivate Indigo or anything else, unless of their own free will they agree to do so; but that if they have agreed to do so this year, and have received any cash advance in consideration of such agreement, unless they fulfil those agreements they will be liable to pay heavy damages or to be imprisoned. They must therefore fulfil their agreements.

3. The Lieutenant Governor regrets the arrest made by Mr. Muspratt, as reported by him in para. 3 of his letter. Mr. Muspratt was holding no Court at the time, and the arrest for "contempt of Court" was therefore unwarranted and absurd. It is not the way in reasoning with people, when you wish to induce them to explain the real state of their minds, to put them in jail when they can't be convinced. Mr. Muspratt's conduct to a man who had actually done nothing wrong was arbitrary and irritating, and the man should be immediately released from custody.

4. The story told by Mr. Muspratt, in para. 6 of his letter, of a Ryot petitioning to be allowed by the Indigo Planter to cultivate a smaller proportion of his land with Indigo than formerly, is not so narrated as to give the impression that either the Ryot, the Planter, or the Magistrate was aware that Ryots are, in the theory of the Law, free agents.

From F. GOULDSBURY, ESQ., Commissioner of Circuit for the Division of Rajshahye, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 560, dated Rajshahye, the 6th April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to annex for the information of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant Governor a copy of Mr. Muspratt's last Weekly Report showing the state of matters in the Pubna District.

2. Every thing continues quiet in Moorshedabad, Rajshahye and (as far as I am informed) Malda; but until Mr. Tayler takes charge of the latter District, (which he is now on his way to do,) I cannot expect to receive regular reports of the Magistrate's proceedings, as my letter of yesterday will have informed you.

3. A party of 36 Sowars from Captain Adlam's Regiment arrived here yesterday, but I have received no instructions respecting them.

1st Weekly Report of the state of the Indigo Districts in Zillah Pubna, for the Week ending 31st March 1860.

Paikpara Concern, in Pergunnah Chateean pertaining to Meetan Factory is situated in the Pubna District, all the other villages pertaining to the Concern lie in the Nuddea District. Three of the villagers of Chateean petitioned that the Factory people had collected a band of men and were going to sow Indigo on their land by force. The police went to the spot and reported that there was no band of men collected. I visited this village on the 26th; I found the Ryots were determined not to sow Indigo; I explained to them the folly of pursuing such a course, and that they would thereby render themselves amenable to Law, and that there would shortly be a Law to punish them severely if they had taken advances and refused to sow. One man I arrested for contempt of Court and uttering threatening language against the Government likely to lead to a serious breach of the peace. Since then Mr. Parker, the Manager of the Factory, and the Ryots have come to me. The Ryots have begged Mr. Parker to let bygones be bygones, and have promised to sow after the first shower of rain.

The villagers when returning home were heard by the Meerpore people to say that they would sow, and would not join the disaffected Ryots in Nuddea.

Meerpore Concern. All quiet. The Ryots say they will sow after the first rain. The Ryots at first came and complained against the Planter, and said that Government had ordered Indigo not to be grown; I explained to them that Government had given no such order. The Ryots of four villages in the Zemindaree of Baboo Ramrutton Roy complained that they were made to grow more Indigo than they engaged for. I am having the Indigo lands of one village measured to see if there is any truth in their complaint.

Mr. Tripp reported that the Ryots of Parsetley and Ghazeepore Factories, belonging to the Bamundee Concern, are likely to rise. I visited two villages belonging to the former factory. The Ryots made no complaints, and said they would sow after the first shower of rain.

1st Grade Darogah Derasut Oolla visited the Gazeepore villages, and reports that in accordance with my orders he explained to the Ryots that

they were bound to act up to the engagements, and that he found the Ryots peaceably disposed, and not likely to join the disaffected in Nuddea.

All the other Concerns in the District are, I believe, perfectly quiet.

The first shower of rain will show whether the Ryots will act up to their engagements or not, but at the same time I have reason to think that all the Ryots are watching what is going on in the Nuddea and Jessore Districts, and that should the present lawless assemblages in the former District be put down in any one Concern *soon*, that the whole of this District will remain undisturbed. The measures I have adopted have been to bring Planters and Ryots together; to let the Ryots state their demands, and give utterance to any complaints they had to make against the Planters and their factory servants. I have found this plan answer well. The Ryots in the Meerpore Concern (except Amla Factory, the villages of which lie in Nuddea) have gone to the Manager, Mr. Ferrier, and have amicably settled matters and promise to act up to to their agreements.

But all that I have done and may do to keep the District quiet will, I fear, be labour lost if some decisive measures are not speedily taken to put down the gatherings of the Ryots in the Nuddea District.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(No. 1580, dated the 9th April 1860.)

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 560, dated the 6th instant, and with reference to the concluding para. thereof, to state that the party of 36 Sowars from Adlam's Horse, detached to Rampore Bauleah, are intended to be sent by you to any place where their presence may seem likely to be useful.

From F. A. Lushington, Esq., Magistrate of Rajshahye, to the Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division,—(No. 153, dated Rajshahye, the 30th March 1860.)

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 517, of the 26th instant, I have the honor to inform you that since the receipt of that letter I have

received no intelligence of any further disturbances connected with the cultivation of Indigo in this District. On the contrary, I am assured from various quarters that the Indigo sowings have been completed peacefully, and that there is no anticipation of further riots; fifty of the 2nd Police Battalion are however at Nattore under the orders of Mr. Metcalfe, the Assistant in charge, and 50 more start for Pootea this evening under those of the Joint Magistrate. Mr. Taylor and I have every hope that this demonstration will tend entirely to extinguish any latent inclination that may have existed to follow the example of the Ryots in the neighbouring Districts.

2. The Notifications forwarded from Government have been proclaimed in all villages where discontent was suspected, and measures have been adopted for the immediate apprehension of certain ringleaders in the attack of Mr. Lyon's Factory, should they make their appearance in this District.

No. 562.

COPY forwarded to Government in continuation of this Office letter No. 518, of the 26th ultimo.

No. 1616.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Government of India in the Home Department, in continuation of this office letter No. 1386, dated the 31st ultimo.

From F. LUSHINGTON, ESQ., Magistrate of Rajshahye, to the Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division,—(No. 168, dated Rajshahye, the 10th April 1860.)

SIR,

IN continuation of my report submitted last week, I have the satisfaction of informing you that those portions of this District where there is Indigo cultivation have remained perfectly quiet and no symptoms of riotous disturbances have manifested themselves, and I understand from the Planters themselves that they anticipate no difficulty in their sowings, which will be completed in all this month; until such however

is the case, I still think it expedient that the troops now on duty in the Indigo cultivating Thannahs, should still be retained there.

2. With reference to the arrival of a portion of the Patna Irregular Horse, as we have an ample supply of troops in the Police Battalion for every purpose for which their services may be required, I would respectfully suggest that you should authorize me to order them to return to their Head Quarters.

From F. LUSHINGTON, ESQ., Magistrate of Rajshahye, to the Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division,—(No. 169, dated Rajshahye, the 10th April 1860.)

SIR,

WITH reference to your intimation that owing to the perfect tranquillity of this District the services of the party of Sowars that came here from Berhampore are not likely to be put into requisition, I beg to inform you that I have this day given Syud Tuckeer, Resseldar in command, directions to proceed to Berhampore and report himself to the Adjutant of his Regiment, at present quartered at the latter station.

No. 594.

COPIES forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal with an intimation that Mr. Lushington has been directed to send the party of Sowars over to Berhampore, where the Aajutant of their Regiment is at present quartered.

From H. W. ALEXANDER, ESQ., Officiating Joint Magistrate of Moorshedabad, to the Commissioner of the Rajshahye Division,—(No. 303, dated Berhampore, the 10th April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I returned from the District on the 8th instant; I went to Lallgollah on the night of the 1st instant, in accordance with the verbal order of Mr. Beaufort; I remained

there two days, and then went on to Bhogwangola, where I staid three days, and from there proceeded to Ackrigunge from which place I returned to the Sudder Station at the request of Mr. Robinson. During the whole time I was out, everything was perfectly quiet; in fact no complaint was made either by Planters or Ryots as to the sowing of Indigo, and from what inquiries I made at the time, there is evidently not the slightest apprehension of any such disturbance taking place as occurred last month within the Sub-Division of Aurungabad.

No. 599.

COMMUNICATED to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1785.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Government of India, in the Home Department.

From F. GOULDSBURY, ESQ., Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 600½, dated on the River, the 16th April 1860.)

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 546, dated the 2nd instant, I have the honor to report for the information of the Lieutenant-Governor, that finding on my arrival at Aurungabad on Saturday last, that Mr. Furrell and Captain Pughe were at Dhoolian (about 10 miles higher up the river) I proceeded to the latter place, where I met those Officers, and found that all was perfectly quiet in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Furrell informed me that some of Mr. Lyon's Ryots at Bunyagaon had commenced sowing their Indigo lands, but that none of those in the Aurungabad Concern had shown any disposition to do so; indeed, so far from such being the case, a large body of them had come into Mr. Furrell's Camp, a few days previously, and deposited their ploughs, of which I observed a heap in front of the tents! Notwithstanding this however, no cases had been instituted under the new Act, for breach o

contract, which Mr. Furrell attributed to the fact of no cash advances having been made in that Concern, in which the Planter is also the Zemindar. The Ryots seem fully to understand the provisions of the Bill, and say that all who have taken advances will sow, and the rest will do as they like.

3. I did not see Mr. Wood, who had gone into Rajmahal, but from what Mr. Furrell told me, he appears to be getting on well with the investigation of the Bunyagaon case, in which about 35 of the principal rioters have been apprehended. Mr. Wood's inquiries into this case and the one at the Ankoora Factory, will no doubt elicit the true causes of the disaffection among the Ryots in this quarter, who have been long known as a turbulent set of people. It seems to be universally admitted that the oppressive conduct of the Gomashta of the Ankoora Factory, Meer Tufuzzool Hoosein, was the immediate exciting cause of the late disturbances, which would not have reached the height they did had prompt and *effectual* measures been taken for their suppression by the Magisterial Authorities at Moorshedabad.

4. The existing tranquillity is no doubt attributable chiefly to the presence of the Military Police, as well as to the absence of any cause of excitement, but until the principals in the attack on the Bunyagaon Factory are punished, and the alleged grievances of the Ryots are inquired into, and redressed as far as circumstances will admit, I do not expect that the quietude will be permanent: on this account, I would not advise the withdrawal of the Military Police for some time to come, though I think the strength of the Force might without risk, be reduced.

From A. W. Bainbridge, Esq., Officiating Magistrate of Pubna, to A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(dated the 11th April 1860.)

Sir,

I have the honor to report that Mr. Deputy Magistrate Lingham's report of the case at Neschindepore has just come in. The riot appears to have been most serious, and he appears to have carried forbearance much too far. Two of the Police Battalion were severely wounded, their bodies not recovered, and two other persons wounded. Mr. Lingham also has been maltreated. The dak is just leaving. I will send his report

as soon as it is copied. The whole of the Detachment here, 47 rank and file, will start to-night in fishing boats, and ought to arrive in a day-and-a-half.

I shall precede them as before reported, and shall probably write to Furreedpore for a Wing of the Kamroop Regiment.

From G. L. HARRIS, ESQ., Assistant Magistrate in charge, to A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No 190, dated Pubna, the 12th April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to enclose, as instructed by Mr. A. J. R. Bainbridge, a copy of the letter received yesterday from Mr. E. T. Lingham, Deputy Magistrate of Comercolly.

I have also to observe that Mr. A. J. R. Bainbridge, upon its receipt, despatched an express to Furreedpore for 200 men of the Kamroop Regiment to be sent at once to the scene of the affray.

From E. F. LINGHAM, ESQ., Deputy Magistrate of Commercolly, to H. MUSPRATT, ESQ., Officiating Magistrate of Pubna,—(dated Neschindepore, 10th April, 1860.)

SIR,

I BEG to lay the following report of a serious affray which has this day occurred before you.

In obedience to your instruction contained in letter dated 7th April, I proceeded at midnight of the 7th instant, with 24 of the Military Police which you directed should accompany me.

Owing to adverse winds, we did not reach Neschindepore until the evening of the 9th.

On the morning of the 10th, I crossed the men (30 in number,) and taking their baggage with us with the intention of proceeding after the investigation of the Jungul cases to Beluabaria, at which place also the Ryots seemed to be collecting, I directed them to march to Jungul about 4 miles distant. In order to avoid any appearance of force, I left the Police

on their march, and took with me my Nazir and four Burkundauzes to take evidence in the cases. On arriving within a mile of the village, Mr. Durand rode up to me to say the Nazir had entreated him to intimate that he and his Burkundauzes had been set upon; at the same time directing my attention to a small army of lateeals which was assembled about half a mile without the village on a rising ground. I immediately rode to the assembled men with the intention of conferring with them, but as they made off, I requested Mr. Durand to assist me in covering my Burkundauzes (we were both on horseback) and if possible to apprehend with me a few of the rioters for evidence sake. I found the huts full of armed men, and they were endeavouring to carry off my Police Burkundauzes.

2. Thinking that a little show of force would intimidate the rioters, I rode off to bring up the Military Police, who were with their baggage more than two miles in the rear. I divided them and sent a party of 10 with a Naick to the right, another to the left, to keep outside the village and prevent the escape of any armed men, giving them strict injunction not to use unnecessary force. I took with me 8 men, and went up to my Burkundauzes and without violence to seize a few ringleaders of the riot.

3. I then found a large body of above 1,200 men armed with spears, swords, bamboos, and shields drawn up in a threatening attitude. They began to attack my men, and I, observing they were really determined to set upon them, with the utmost anxiety not to shed blood, directed the men to fall back. But they were excited as the weapons of war and all were flying about us from all directions, I heard a shot fired. Mr. Durand was far from the village as I had requested him not to accompany me. I sent for him and entreated him to prevent any firing whilst I got the men together, for although they were attacking the Military Police I was most anxious not to use force. The men losing all obedience, began to return the spears and clods with fire. In this state it was impossible to control them; hence I ordered an instant retreat, using, as I cannot too frequently impress upon you, all my power to prevent bloodshed. Seeing us falling back, the enemy (for I can call them by no other name) made a furious onset, flanking us, and throwing their spears, bamboos, clods, bones and everything at the men within their reach: we were injured, they had completely flanked us and were drunk with excitement. Still I begged of the men not to return their attack.

I endeavoured to present a front and then fall back, but the men were: broken, they kept up an irregular fire, and would not form. I endeavoured to parley with the opposite side, but they returned my entreaty with a shower of weapons. It was beyond human power to stop the firing, which was however ineffectual, and I was in front the whole time turning their muskets in the air or taking the caps off the nipples just as they presented or standing before their muskets as they were about to fire, at the same time holding up my hand to the enemy as a sign of peace. We were assailed with a perfect shower of spears, bones, &c. The men were upon me, the Sepoys fairly retreated. I defended myself with a slight riding cane, and then dismounted to show the men I was determined to remain with them. On they came in hundreds, pelting and striking on all sides. I was knocked down two Sepoys also fell, and then the men fairly bolted—alas! they fairly bolted: My efforts to rally them and bring off the wounded men were unavailing; I tried to go up to one myself; but was surrounded and ill-treated, I then thought to follow up my retreating men, but was overpowered and fell to the ground. One man more excited than the rest lifted his tulwar to make a blow at my head whilst I was down, but providentially (as I am told) a Sepoy came up with his drawn sword and helped me.

Jungul affray, 1860.

4. After this, I have no recollection of what happened. I am informed that the Sepoys seeing me fall, rallied and fired; but be all this as it may I am happy to state that I did not notice one man on the opposite side fall. But I am grieved to add that the two poor Sepoys were speared and rifled, and that two other men including a village Chowkeedar are severely wounded.

5. Let me entreat of you, Sir, to bear in mind my unremitting efforts throughout this affray to prevent the shedding of blood. I find however that Ramrutton and others had assembled men at Jungul as soon as he heard you had written for me to go to the spot.

6. It is my belief that the powerful Zemindars are taking advantage of the existing Indigo disturbances, to vent their spleen on those with whom they have previously disputed either at Law or otherwise.

7. Seven prisoners are with me.

8. I would feel obliged by your coming down to this quarter to investigate this affray. I am just off to Narna, of the Nowbatta Concern, where I intend to remain with the men. I have directed some Civil

Police to come from Khoksa and Pangsa Thannas, and would merely mention to you, Sir, that dependence is not to be placed on these Military Irregulars. We must either be content to permit the assemblage of large bodies of Zemindars' lateeals on the face of the country, or be supplied with European troops to defend our persons and authority.

From A. W. BAINBRIDGE, ESQ., Officiating Magistrate of Pubna, to A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(dated the 13th April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I arrived here with 417 Sepoys; in fast sailing boats, on the evening of the 12th.

I found the villages in which the riot occurred, deserted, and the Police in possession.

There is no present probability of further disturbance.

The Ryots in the neighbouring Concerns of Messrs. Savi and Kenny are quiet.

One of the wounded Sepoys and the body of a villager, said to have died from a musket shot received in the riot, were recovered yesterday.

The Sepoy is not dangerously hurt, and the wounded Peada will recover.

No trace of the other Sepoy is forthcoming; there is little doubt he is dead and his corpse made away with.

I have offered 200 Rupees reward for certain information of his fate.

The case is in a fair way to be proved clearly against the principals, some Chowdari of Baleakundee and a Gomashta of Ramrutton Roy, of Narail, but they are not yet in custody; no steps were taken or evidence recorded before my arrival.

The riot at present appears to have been premeditated, and entirely unprovoked. I am inclined to attribute it partly to old hostility on the part of the principals, and partly to the present dissatisfaction regarding Indigo.

Mr. Lingham thinks Ramrutton's Amlah have special ill-feeling towards himself, for past official conduct. There is every reason to believe that Mr. Lingham's life was saved by the Sikh Havildar.

I think the results of his expedition rather owing to his mistaken reluctance to allow the Sepoys to use their weapons, than to cowardice on their part.

Before leaving Pubna, I sent a pressing requisition to Captain Drew for 200 men of the Kamroop Regiment to be marched forthwith to Balcakundee about 6 miles from this; I expect them to-morrow, and propose keeping 100 of them here until after the sowings. The only other places, where affairs look threatening are Belnaberry, where Mr Imbert reports that the Ryots are breaking his Indigo and maltreating his servants, and Ghazipore in the Meerpore Concern.

I have sent Mr. Lingham with 50 men and the Sub-Lieutenant to Belnaberry; this large force was necessary as the poor fellow has lost all confidence and would not go without, which it was essential he should do, as rain fell this evening.

I have written to Mr. Harris to go to Ghazipore with 15 men, who are in Pubna, and remain there until after the sowings; both will send for the Ryots and explain the object of Government and the provisions of the Act, which I have had clearly drawn up.

If things are settled at Belnaberry, Mr. Lingham will return and remain in charge of the Kamroops here until after the sowings.

I propose remaining until the chief rioters are in custody.

I have sent for Ramruttun's head servant in these parts, and when he comes shall take measures which will speedily secure the attendance of his Gomashta; the others I must arrest, as I can carry force if necessary when I have ascertained where they are.

The other 100 of the Kamroops who will not be wanted will return to Furreedpore.

From Major T. RATTRAY, Inspecter of Military Police Battalions in Bengal, to A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 244, dated Barrackpore, the 17th April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward for the information of the Lieutenant Governor, copy of letter No. 115, dated 15th instant, from Lieutenant Reeves, commanding 2nd Battalion Bengal Police, together with

copy of translation of report from Havildar Seeboo Khan, commanding a Detachment in the Pubnah District, from which it appears that the Detachment had been compelled to retire before a mob of half-armed villagers.

2. From the 2nd para. of Lieutenant Reeves' letter, it appears that the Detachment did not number more than 20 men, but even this number, small as it was, ought never to have retired. I can scarcely believe that any Magistrate would have ordered the men to run away rather than stand on the defence, however such is deliberately stated by the Havildar, but I must refrain from making any further remarks on the subject until I hear something more definite. As I conclude the Magistrate has reported the matter to the Government, I have the honor to request that I be furnished with a copy of it.

From Lieutenant G J Reeves, Commanding 2nd Bengal Police Battalion, to Major T. Ratfray, Inspector Military Police Battalions, Lower Provinces,—(No 115, dated Rampore Beauleah, the 15th April 1860)

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith translation of a letter from Havildar Seebo Khan, commanding Detachment in the Pubna District, to Sub-Lieutenant Issuree Sing, and sent on to me in original, detailing an affair in which the Havildar and his party were apparently worsted by a body of rioters on the 10th instant.

2. This is but an *exparte* statement, but should the Magistrate have really given the order not to stand on the defence, but run away, such alone is quite sufficient to have caused the disgraceful termination; again the latter proceeds in charge of a small party of about 20 men, and instead of keeping them together, at the commencement breaks up his already disproportionate force into small parties; they are immediately surrounded and have to rejoin each other in the midst of a tumultuous mob; thus confusion must have reigned from the very beginning.

3. It is difficult to understand how after capturing seven of the rioters, and being able to keep possession of them, the party should still have been obliged to retire.

Translation of an Extract of a letter from Havildar Sheebho Khan, Commanding Detachment 2nd Bengal Police Battalion in the Pubna District, to Sub-Lieutenant Issuree Sing.

EXTRACT.—At 3 P. M. the next day we marched again and arrived in the evening at Neesanpore Factory where we remained all night. In the morning agreeably to the orders of the Magistrate accompanying us, we got ready and marched to a village called "Peeraree." When we arrived there, the Magistrate divided us into 3 parties, sending one to the East of the village, another to the West, and marching in the village himself with the remainder. We were almost immediately surrounded by about two thousand men armed with spears, bows and arrows and latees they came on and wounded the Magistrate's horse, with a spear that Officer fell off, and the party having rejoined, by order of the Havildar, commenced firing; on this the Magistrate said, if you fire I will have you punished; what could we then do?

In this way the rioters came down upon us; the Sahib then said don't fire, but run away; we did so, and during this time Sepoys Sentuhul of the 8th Company, and Peer Mahommed of the 7th Company, were wounded and fell, and were seized by the villagers; it is not known if they are killed or not. When we got outside the village, the Magistrate ordered us to surround the place again.

It is stated that the rioters were men from fifty-two villages; one man was conspicuous amongst them, from which direction there was some firing, he and others surrounded the Saheb, and the Havildar seeing this ordered the men to fire; on this the Rioters ran away and we captured seven of them; we then with the Sahib returned to the Factory.

The Sahib gave us no warning of being thus employed, and we were taken quite unawares.

The above occurrence took place on Tuesday the 10th.

Reported for the information of the Commanding Officer by Seebhoo Khan, Havildar 2nd Bengal Police Battalion.

This translation is given as it is in the urzee in, which the Havildar writes of himself in the third person.

From F. Gouldsbury, Esq., Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 611, dated Rajshahye the 18th April 1860.)

Sir,

On my return here yesterday, I found Mr. Bainbridge's letter, enclosing a copy of Mr. Lingham's report of the late disturbance at Jungul in the Pubna District, a copy of which has been forwarded to Government by my Uncovenanted Assistant.

2. I immediately sent instructions to Lieutenant Reeves Commanding the 2nd Police Battalion, to send off the 100 men he had in readiness, and they left by water for Pubna this morning.

3. Under the discretion vested in me by the 2nd paragraph of your letter No. 1251, of the 27th ultimo, I have sent off an express to Captain Pughe, requesting him to send over 200 men from Jungilpore to take the duties at this Station, so as to admit of Lieutenant Reeves proceeding to Pubna with the remainder of his Corps, which will give from 400 to 500 men for that District.

4. I beg to annex for the Lieutenant Governor's information, copy of a further report from Mr. Lingham, which I must say shows the affair at Jungul to have been most sadly mismanaged. The folly of separating a small Detachment of 30 men into *three* bodies, in the face of a mob of 1,200 rioters, is only equalled by that of restraining the men from acting on the offensive after they had been attacked. Had Mr. Lingham formed his men into a *compact body*, and called upon the rioters to disperse on pain of being fired upon, the latter would in all probability have been intimidated; it was only when they saw the Sepoys scattered and disorganized, that they took courage to attack them. The men were no doubt to blame for firing without orders, but under the circumstances, I think that there was great excuse for them.

5. Mr. Bainbridge appears to have acted with due promptitude and energy in proceeding to the spot himself with all the available men of the Police Battalion. There must however be some mistake in the number stated in his letter, as there were only 150 of the 3rd Police Battalion in the Pubna District at the time.

6. I would beg to suggest the expediency of Lieutenant Reeves being vested with the powers of a Magistrate in the Pubna District, as has been done in the case of Captain Pughe, in Moorshedabad.

From E. F. Lingham, Esq., Deputy Magistrate of Coomercolly, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(dated off Nischindpore, April 10th, 1860.)

Sir,

Jungal affray.

It is my painful duty to report the following serious affray, attended with murder and wounding, which occurred this day at the village of Jungul.

2. Jungul is a low village which has for some time been in a disturbed state, there have been zemindaree disputes and Indigo disputes with the Nischindepore Concern, and the latter was forced to petition the Pubna Court for some sort of protection and investigation.

Entrance to Jungul.

3. At the direction of the Magistrate, my superior, I started on the 7th instant, with a small guard of Military Police, and on the morning of the 10th (this day) I went with my Nazir and 4 Peons for the purpose of investigating the alleged outrages at Jungul, leaving the guard more than two miles in my rear in order to avoid any exhibition of force which might induce the people to misinterpret the object of Government in supplying such guards.

4. Near the entrance of the village, I found a large body of armed men drawn up, and endeavouring to seize my Nazir and Burkundauzes. I rode up to cover my peons and endeavour to apprehend a few of the rioters for evidence sake. I did seize in all six men, and leaving them with the Nazir outside the village at the same time requesting Mr. Durand to remain with them, I myself rode quite into the village to explain the object of my visit, holding up my hand as a sign of peace. They received my advances with a shower of clods and bamboos. On this I returned and took with me Mr. Durand and the Nazir to aid in preventing the Rioters joining another body which was collected on a rising ground. They began attacking the Peadas and us; I thought if we endeavourd to run they would immediately pour out and overwhelm us, for they seemed determined to listen to no counsel.

5. I then rode down to bring up the guard to intimidate the opposite side, bring off my people, and if possible to seize without much violence some of the leading Rioters.

6. I have given a full account of the events to the Magistrate of Pubna; suffice it to say, Sir, that the Sepoys proved unmanageable.

The lateeals, who numbered far above 1,200, sent their weapons at us from all directions, one of the peadas had been severely wounded; I had requested Mr. Durand to leave me; I walked my horse up towards the men, but received the same salutation as before, the Sepoys then began returning their attack with fire. I sent for Mr. Durand and begged him "for God's sake" to help in preventing the men firing; the men were not regularly disciplined, seeing this and that the enemy were resolved to attack us I ordered a retreat, being extremely anxious to prevent the shedding of blood. Observing we were falling back they came on with a yell, literally showering their weapons at us, spears bamboos, bones, clods, harpoons and everything within reach. I once more tried to pacify them, but was surrounded and obliged to rejoin my retreating men. I dismounted, and was in front of my men the whole time doing *all in my power* (even taking the caps off the nipples as they presented) to prevent firing. The men were broken; one fell and was instantly despatched; another and I endeavoured to rally the men and bring off the wounded with a rush, but they would not show a front. I myself then fell, overwhelmed with heavy blows, and just as one more excited than the rest was making a cut at my neck with his tulwar (whilst I was down) one or two Soldiers rescued me; still did I entreat them not to fire.

7. We managed to retreat and save the baggage, but I am grieved to say that two Sepoys fell into the hands of the enemy and a peada and village Chowkeedar were wounded. Happy am I to add that not a *single* man on the other side was seen to fall. I brought off 7 prisoners but lost my horse and other things. The men it appears were engaged to oppose me, they were the budmashes of 7 villages, and had been ready for several days.

8. Permit me to add that dependence is *not* to be placed upon these Military Irregulars the men with me were lost to control; they fairly ran away when one had fallen. We must either allow the assemblage of armed men over the face of the country, or be supplied with Europeans, (who will reserve their fire until the word of command is given, and fall back in order,) that our persons and authority may be protected.

From A R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to F. GOULDSBURY, ESQ., Commissioner of Pubna,—(No. 1847, dated the 21st April 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 18th instant, reporting the occurrence of a serious disturbance at Jungul, in Thannah Pungsa, on the 10th idem, when a Detachment of the 2nd Police Battalion in charge of Mr. Depy. Magistrate Lingham was opposed, and ultimately repulsed with the loss of two of their number by a body of riotous villagers and armed lateeals. A copy of Mr. Lingham's report of the occurrence has also been received from the Assistant in charge of the Pubna Magistrate's Office.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor very much regrets the occurrence of this disturbance ; the more so that the unfortunate result of it was, by his own showing, wholly attributable to the deplorably bad management of the Deputy Magistrate, Mr. Lingham.

3. It is gratifying to learn by the latest accounts that one of the Police Sepoys left upon the ground, and believed to have been killed, is alive and doing well. But there is no room to hope that the life of the other, as well as the credit of the party, has not been sacrificed by Mr. Lingham's senseless conduct.

4. If " a small army of lateeals amounting to 1,200 men armed with spears, swords, bamboos, and shields," who showed that they were " determined to attack Mr. Lingham's party," and who actually began to attack them whilst the weapons of war were flying about in all directions did not constitute a case for military action by a small party of 24 Military Police, it is inconceivable with what object Mr. Lingham could have taken the party with him. In not despersing the armed rioters by the fire of the Detachment after all milder measures had been found ineffectual, and after the rioters had actually attacked the Police, the Deputy Magistrate failed in his duty to Government ; and in ordering his party to retreat before the assailants, he ran the greatest risk of sacrificing the lives of all his men, and of giving rise to an extensive disturbance. It is providential that the result was not more distressing than it has been.

5. Whilst the Lieutenant-Governor imputes nothing to Mr. Lingham in respect of his conduct on this occasion, beyond such extreme in-

competence as an Officer of Police as must for ever prevent his being again employed in such a capacity, he feels it necessary to express his strong displeasure at the remarks on the behaviour of the Military Police, thus unworthily handled as they have been, which, notwithstanding his exposure of his own mismanagement, Mr. Lingham has not hesitated to make.

6. It appears that notwithstanding the feelings which the men cannot but have experienced under such guidance, Mr. Lingham's life was gallantly saved by the Havildar of the party, after the retreat he had ordered had commenced; and the seven prisoners taken were retained by the men, and marched off with them. The small Detachment of twenty-four men had been divided into three parties, which were apparently at one time widely separated; and the men were prevented by Mr. Lingham from defending themselves in any rational manner. The imputations cast upon them by Mr. Lingham in the last paragraph of his report are entirely worthless; and this opinion will be conveyed to Major Rattray in transmitting a copy of your letter under reply, and of Mr. Lingham's report, to that Officer.

7. Mr. Lingham is now deprived permanently of all Police powers, and he will in future only be employed in the trial of petty criminal and revenue cases. He may be directed to proceed at once to the Sudder Station of Jehanabad, to which he was appointed on the 27th ultimo.

No. 1849.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner of Patna for information and guidance.

No. 1848.

COPY of this letter and of the one to which it is a reply, forwarded for the information of the Inspector of Police Battalions, with reference to his letter No. 244, dated the 17th instant.

From F. GOULDSBURY, Esq. Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 613, dated Rajshahye, the 19th April 1860.)

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 611, of yesterday's date, I have the honor to forward for the Lieutenant Governor's information, copies of two reports received this morning from Mr. Bainbridge, the intelligence conveyed in which is satisfactory.

2. The rioters appear to have sufferd rather severely from the fire of the Military Police, one having been killed and 8 wounded. This is probably what saved the party from total destruction, which might have been the consequence of retreating before an armed infuriated mob and at the same time preventing the Military from using their arms in self-defence.

3. It is satisfactory to find that the Gomashta of Baboo Ramrutton Roy, who appears to have been one of the principals, is in custody, together with a number of minor rioters. I have informed Mr. Bainbridge that I shall be prepared to sanction any rewards that he may consider advisable to offer for any of the parties engaged in this outrage.

4. As the disaffection seems to be spreading among the Ryots in the Southern parts of the Pubna District, I would beg leave to suggest the expediency of two extra Deputy Magistrates with full powers (Europeans if possible) being attached to that District, as a temporary arrangement for carrying out the provisions of the new Act. Mr. Harris will be put in charge of the Commercolly Sub-Division; one of the extra Deputies might be stationed in the South-east part of the District, while the other might be sent to Dhurrumpore, or any other place the Magistrate may fix upon.

5. I would not propose to make any alteration in the arrangements for sending down Lieutenant Reeves with the rest of his men, on account of the present tranquillity, as I think the Magistrate should have a considerable force at his command until the present excitement is over. I have every confidence in Mr. Bainbridge, who has shown great energy and activity since he took charge of the District.

From L. A. Bainbridge, Esq., Officiating Magistrate, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(dated 14th April 1860.)

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I reached this on the evening of the 12th, with 47 Sepoys, in fast fishing boats.

I found the villages in which the riot occurred, deserted, and the Police in possession.

There is no present probability of further disturbance. The Ryots in the neighbourhood are quiet.

One of the Sepoys and the body of a villager said to have been shot in the riot were recovered on the 12th. The Sepoy is not dangerously hurt, and the wounded Peada will also recover.

No trace can be obtained of the other Sepoy; there is little doubt he was killed and his corpse made away with.

I have offered 200 Rupees for certain information; 6 villagers wounded with musket shots have been brought in to-day.

The principals, the Balleakandy Chowdries and a Gomashta of Ramrutton Roy of Narail are not yet in custody, no steps having been taken or evidence recorded before my arrival.

The riot appears at present to have been premeditated and entirely unprovoked; I am inclined to attribute it partly to the present disaffection with regard to Indigo, but more to old hostility on the part of the principals and the lawless character of the villagers who appear to be the trained lateeals of this and the neighbouring District.

Mr. Lingham thinks Ramrutton's servants have special animosity against him for past official conduct.

There is every reason to believe that the Seikh Havildar saved Mr. Lingham's life; I shall report him particularly.

I am inclined to think this unfortunate occurrence was rather the result of Mr. Lingham's reluctance to allow the Sepoys to use their weapons, than cowardice on their part; he showed great personal courage himself.

Before leaving Pubna I wrote for 200 men from Furreedpore to be marched up *viâ* Balliakandy, about 6 miles from here.

I expect them to arrive to-day or to-morrow, and shall keep 100 of them near this spot until after the sowings, as I think the demonstration necessary.

Matters are threatening at Belnabary, Mr. Imbert's Concern, who writes that the Ryots are destroying his Indigo and beating his servants, also at

Ghazipore in the Meerpore Concern. I am anxious about the effect of this case in both places, and therefore sent Mr. Lingham with 50 men and the Sub-Lieutenant to the former; he will send for the Ryots and have the Notification of the Lieutenant Governor and the provisions of the Law read and clearly explained, specially pointing out the folly and guilt and consequences of taking the Law into their own hands pending His Honor's inquiries into the system.

If matters are soon settled there he will return here and remain in charge of the Kamroops.

I have written to Mr. Harris to go to Ghazipore and do the like; he will take with him 15 Sepoys, and there are 15 there already with the Darogah.

I was obliged to send a large number with Mr. Lingham, because he has quite lost all confidence and refused to go without; he has been severely maltreated and allowance must be made.

I shall not leave this unless compelled until the principals are in custody.

I have sent for Ramrutton Roy's head servant, and when he comes will take measures which I trust will secure the presence of his Gomashta and Ryots.

The case is in a fair way to be proved against the Chowdries also. I hope to arrest them as soon as the Police discover their whereabouts. I shall use force if necessary.

I have sent copies of the new Act and the Government Notification to all the Thannahs with directions how to explain and where to publish them, only where misapprehension and confusion prevail; the Police will report each publication. I have 13 Sepoys with me.

The other 100 of the Kamroops, if sent, will return to Furreedpore, as I do not think they will be required.

It strikes me the Police of this District are unusually bad and neglected.

The Punsa Darogah whom I found engaged with the case is a Ryot of Ramrutton's.

I ordered two others down here before I left; neither have arrived, and one turns out to be imbecile.

I have repeatedly sent for the Kushtea Darogah, also not yet arrived.

The Punda Darogah, Koksha Naib Darogah and Fouzdaree Nazir are engaged in arresting the defendants.

There are two first rate Darogahs in Burrisaul, appointed by me; would it be objectionable to apply for their transfer.

Mr. Lingham's Serishtadar the only Omlah up to his work at present with me, also turns out to be a Ryot of Ramrutton Baboo's.

From A. L. BAINBRIDGE, ESQ., Officiating Magistrate, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(dated 15th April 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that the Gomashta of Ramrutton Roy is in custody, with a number of minor Rioters.

Two other wounded men have been found; Mr. Harris has forwarded a letter for Mr. Stephenson of Dobracole, of the 12th, to the effect that his Ryots are wavering. I have written to Mr. Harris to ride out at once, summon them together and have the Law and intention of Government explained in his presence. Before my letter could arrive he had sent the Deputy Magistrate to Meerpore, so that he is still in the station himself.

P. S.—I have written to Mr. Lingham to say he must remain for a day or two.

Captain Drew and men from Furreedpore were reported close at hand yesterday morning. I shall ride over to him this morning at Baleeacondee.

From F. GOULDSBURY, ESQ., Commissioner of Circuit, Rajshahye Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(No. 624, dated Rajshahye, the 20th April 1860.)

SIR,

IN continuation of my letter No. 613, of yesterday's date, I have the honor to report for the Lieutenant Governor's information that a party of 80 of the Behar Irregular Cavalry, under an European Officer, have arrived here from Berhampore, and will proceed this evening to Pubna.

2. Mr. Bainbridge reports all quite in the neighbourhood of Nischindepore, but seems apprehensive of disturbances at Meerpore, where, he states, the Ryots were going about in gangs.

The Detachment of the Kamroop Battalion had returned to Furreedpore.

No. 1912.

COPY forwarded for the information of the Government of India in the Home Department.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Rajshahye,—(No. 1936, dated the 25th April 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 611 and 613, dated the 18th and 19th instant, enclosing copies of two reports from Mr. Bainbridge of the late disturbance at Jungul in the Pubna District, and of the state in which he found the villages on his arrival there.

It is stated that there is no present probability of further disturbance, and that the Ryots in the neighbourhood are quiet. Mr. Bainbridge also reports that the Gomashta of Baboo Ramrutton Roy, who appears to have been one of the principals in the riot, is in custody, together with a number of minor Rioters.

Great credit is due to Mr. Bainbridge for the prompt and effective action taken by him against the rioters. You will be so good as to convey to that gentleman the expression of the Lieutenant Governor's appreciation of his exertions.

Your recommendation for posting two extra Deputy Magistrates in Pubna, as a temporary arragement for carrying out the provisions of the new Act, is approved, and as soon as possible two competent Officers will be sent on this special duty.

The Lieutenant Governor desires me to request that you will recall the Sowars lately placed at your disposal, and whom you very hastily and injudiciously, and not quite properly sent back, without previous sanction, you will order the men to proceed immediately to Pubna to act under the orders of Mr. Bainbridge.

Lieutenant Reeves has been vested, as recommended by you, with Magisterial powers, which he will exercise within the Pubna District.

No. XXVI.

From A. GROTE, ESQ., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 36Ct., dated Alipore, the 10th February 1860.)

SIR,

I BEG to lay before Government the enclosed original correspondence between Mr. Larmour and this office, and at the same time to explain my reasons for doing so.

From Mr. Larmour, dated 28th January 1860.
From Commissioner, No. 20Ct., dated 2nd February 1860.
From Mr. Larmour, dated 4th February 1860.

2.—Mr. H. Mackenzie, of Jingergatchah addressed me on the 14th October last, complaining of the mischief which had been done in his Indigo villages by Baboo Hemchunder Kur's Perwanah to the Police, which is the subject of Mr. Larmour's letter. In reply, I referred him in the first place to the Magistrate of Baraset, but as there were among the enclosures of Mr. Mackenzie's letter certain papers which led me to doubt the propriety of the Deputy Magistrate's proceedings, I at the same time called on Mr. Ward to send me a copy of the instructions which Mr. Eden had issued to the Baboo, and other information.

3.—Mr. Ward did not comply with this call till the 5th ultimo, and his report did not reach the office till after I had rejoined it on the 19th idem.

4.—Meanwhile the Magistrate of Nuddea had reported (20th December) the prevalence of a rumour in the South-east part of his District, that Government was opposed to the cultivation of Indigo, and submitted for Mr. Reid's sanction a proposal to issue an order which should have the effect of counteracting it; Mr. Reid replied, admitting that some such step might be necessary, but requesting that it should not be taken till after he had visited the locality, which he expected to do in a few days. I submit this correspondence in original for his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's persual.

From Magistrate No. 315, dated 20th December 1859.
From Commissioner No. 2Ct., dated 3rd January 1860.

5.—On relinquishing charge of this office, Mr. Reid put on record the following note which left the case for my disposal.

"There is a letter in this bundle from the Magistrate of Nuddea (No. "315 of 20th December) which requires further orders, but I postponed "passing any until I had visited the part of the country referred to, "and had received a reply to the Baraset Magistrate's letter about Mr. "Mackenzie's complaint. The latter has not yet been received, although "twice takeeded for. The opposition to the sowing of Indigo in the "Southern part of the Mulnath Concern, in the villages of Foolsurra, "appears to have partly originated from a quarrel between the [redacted]ctory "and one of the Ranaghat Zemindars, but it is also I think partly owing "to the dissemination of the orders passed by the Deputy Magistrate of "Kallarooah to his Darogahs. The opposition in the Baraset District "appears to be attributable to the latter cause *only*. I think the issue "by the Deputy Magistrate of the orders referred to was injudicious, and "that some steps should be taken to remedy the evil which has occurred; "but, in the issue of any counter-orders on the subject great care must "be taken that they do not go too far in the opposite direction. I think "some such order as that suggested by Mr. Drummond might be issued."

6.—I immediately wrote demi-officially, both to Mr. Reid and Mr. Drummond, and on receipt of their replies, which I have recorded, and after careful consideration of Mr. Ward's report, I noted as follows on the 30th ultimo :—

"It appears to me after reading Mr. Reid's and Mr. Drummond's "demi-official notes on this subject, that it is best to let it drop. I "agree with the former that the Deputy Magistrate of Baraset acted very "injudiciously, and I do not think Mr. Eden should have handed over the "Government Order, as he did, to an Officer but imperfectly acquainted "with English.

"The Deputy Magistrate, I observe, says that his publication of the "order in the Thannahs was within Mr. Eden's cognizance."

7th.—Mr. Larmour's first letter came before me on the following day, and so did a communication from the Joint Magistrate of Jessore, from which I extract in the margin.

"A report has got about that the Lieutenant Governor during his visit to Nuddea District gave out that Indigo Planting was oppressive and Ryots were to be told that they were not in any manner bound to sow Indigo unless they pleased, even though they had taken ad-

8th. It has been affirmed then, from three different quarters, that a misimpression existed of the real purport of the Government orders dated 21st July 1859,

vances or entered into contracts. Indigo Planters state that Ryots are putting the most liberal construction on this, and are becoming perfectly unmanageable, and they fear that this feeling will spread and consummate the ruin of their factories. That some such notion has got abroad is apparent from various petitions &c., filed of late; but the outbreak apprehended has not shown itself very generally as yet."

No. 4516, and that this has caused an uneasy feeling in a part of the Indigo Districts. Under these circumstances, I consider it to be my duty to inform the Lieutenant-Governor of all that has passed on the subject, but I still hold to the opinion of my note of the 30th ultimo. I do not in fact see in what way an order could be worded that would be *merely* a corrective of the mischief done by the Deputy Magistrate's injudicious Perwannah.

9. I have not yet received any report from the Magistrate on the outrage on Mr. Campbell referred to in Mr. Larmour's last letter.

From R. T. Larmour, Esq, General Mofussil Manager for Bengal Indigo Company, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(dated Mulnath, the 28th January 1860.)

Sir,

I regret to be again compelled to appeal to you for protection against the acts of an Officer of Government.

In the month of September last, the Deputy Magistrate of Kallarooah issued the accompanying Perwannah on his Police throughout the Sub-Division; it was made known by beat of drum at all the principal Bazars on market day: and the only *real* object of such a Perwannah was to instigate the Ryots not to sow Indigo or fulfil their contracts with the Factories.

The Ryots of this Concern, however, did not immediately listen "to the voice of the tempter"; they came as usual to the Factories, made their accounts and received their advances from the hands of my Assistants, Messrs. Campbell and Hyde.

Everything went on smoothly until the Deputy Magistrate came out on his Mofussil tour. During his stay at Goberdangah, it was reported to me that he had made known his hostile feeling towards the Planters, and that the Ryots would likely take advantage of such feeling, they did not do so. The Deputy Magistrate passed on to Gyeguttah; he was there for some days; no Ryots made any complaint; but on his arrival at Chunbarreah, the Ryots of Baboo Symchunder Pal Chowdry from

Doorgapore and Gyeguttah Factories put in petitions to say that I wished to force them to sow Indigo, an order is immediately passed on these petitions taking *it for granted* that I do and will oppress the Ryots; and the Police are ordered out to protect and *virtually* to encourage the Ryots in not sowing Indigo although they have received their advances, and up to the time of the Deputy's arrival at Chunbarreah had never made a complaint of any kind. Had the Ryots of Gyeguttah any cause of complaint they would surely have made it when the Magistrate was encamped close to their villages. Had t e Deputy known my character or the state of his Sub-Division (and I cannot believe him *ignorant* of either) he must have known in his heart the petitions made by the Ryots were utterly false, and that no lattials are ever employed by me to *coerce* Ryots; still every encouragement is given to the Ryots to act dishonestly, and Burkundazes from Goburdangah Thannah are placed in the villages to prevent either my servants or Assistants from going near them, and of late when they have done so they have been pelted by clods and saved from further maltreatment by the speed of their horses.

It is only two years since Syamchunder Pal Chowdry's people nearly murdered my Assistant, Mr. Cockshott, and every encouragement is now being given to him to attack my Assistants at Gyeguttah and Doorgapore.

I can only repeat, that it pains me to again come before you; my difficulties have never been with my Ryots, but with Officers of Government, who have instigated the Ryots to rebel and avoid their engagements, and a better proof of this could not be than when Molavi Abdool Lutcef shut up my Factory of Peepragatchee; that since his removal, (now six years since) I have not had any difference with the Ryots, nor has ever any complaint been made against me or my servants.

It is quite impossible for me to get respectable Europeans to serve me or to carry on business at all in the Mofussil, unless I receive fair play from the hands of the Government. If the Officers of Government are permitted to go round the Districts, as has been the case of late, instigating people to act dishonestly and ruin the Planter, and to maltreat Europeans, there is no course open, but to retire from the Mofussil.

The sowing season is now coming on, and unless Government will be pleased to issue a notice to counteract the effects of the accompanying Purwannah, and that it is not the wish or intention of Government to interfere in any way with the trade of the Mofussil or allow its

Officers to gratify their feeling against the Europeans by a repetition of these sinister attacks, our difficulties must increase.

From A. Grote, Esq., Commissioner of Nuddea Division, to R. T. Larmour, Esq., General Mofussil Manager for the Bengal Indigo Company,—(No. 20Ct. dated Allipore, 2nd February 1860.)

Sir,

In reply to your letter dated the 28th ultimo, in which you express a desire that Government should issue a Notice to counteract the effects of a Perwannah issued in September last by Deputy Magistrate Hemchunder Kur, I beg to remind you that my *locum tenens*, Mr. Reid was encamped for three days at Bongong, without receiving any, intimation from you of the necessity of such a course. He seems to have considered the opposition offered by the people to Indigo sowings in the South part of the Mulnath Concern to have been due in a great measure to your quarrel with the Pal Chowdrees.

2. If it is still your wish that I should hand your letter up to the Lieutenant Governor, you should, I think, enable me to explain at the same time why, when Mr. Reid had so good an opportunity of satisfying himself whether mischief had or had not been done by the Deputy Magistrate's Perwannah you omitted to move him on the subject.

From R. T. Larmour, Esq. General Mofussil Manager for the Bengal Indigo Company, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(dated the 4th February 1860.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 2nd instant, and in reply beg to state that I called on Mr. Reid at Jessore, and he informed me he had sent for a copy of the Perwannah issued by the Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Hemchunder Kur, and had ordered the Deputy to meet with him at Bongong; Mr. Reid acknowledges the impropriety of the Deputy's proceedings, and said he would do all in his power to rectify the mischief; my Assistant Mr. Campbell

called on Mr. Reid at Bongong (I was absent, being obliged to visit the Pathatasur Concern in Moorshedabad), and he also represented the construction that had been placed by Zemindars and Ryots on the Perwannah in question, which was to the effect that it was the wish and desire of the Government to put a stop to Indigo Planting throughout the District.

That the issuing of the Perwannah and the Deputy Magistrate's tone has caused my present difficulties, there cannot possibly be a doubt. The Ryots made their accounts, took their advances, and measured off their lands, marked and numbered as is customary, but during the past month the Ryots of Baboo Syamchunder Pal Chowdry in particular have shown a bad feeling, and I regret to inform you that my Assistant, Mr. Campbell, was yesterday surrounded by lattials near the village of Russulpur in Thannah Goberdangah; both he and his horse were knocked down, and he lay on the field insensible for an hour, and has been very severely beaten. He has gone to Kishnaghur to petition the Magistrate, and who, I am in hopes, will afford us protection and redress. I have done all in my power to see every justice done my Ryots; I never have a difficulty with them unless at the instigation of Government Officers. I have induced young men of the highest respectability to join the Bengal Indigo Company as Assistants; but how can I expect them to remain, or to carry on business at all, if they are thus to be maltreated when riding quietly over their cultivation. We have no means of protecting ourselves, and living isolated as we do, unless we have protection we must leave the Mofussil.

I must earnestly beg you will lay my Petition before the Lieutenant Governor. I have never resorted to force, and never will, in getting Ryots to act fairly towards me. I pay liberally and well, and the money is paid into the Ryots' own hands by my Assistants and myself, and all I pray for is that the people should not be instigated (as has been the case) to quarrel with me, and that such notorious characters as Syamchunder Pal Chowdry should not receive any encouragement to bully my servants and maltreat my Assistants.

When it is borne in mind that Mulnath Concern extends over one-third of Kishnaghur District, and that from year's end to year's end there is never a complaint made against me or my servants, I think it will bear out all I have represented to you as to my fair dealing towards every one, and that I do all it is possible for a man to do in seeing justice done

the Ryots of the Concern. I honestly confess I cannot contend against the Government Officers, and I firmly believe the Lieutenant Governor will not sanction the acts of the Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Hem Chunder Kur.

From W. DRUMMOND, ESQ., Magistrate of Nuddea, to the Commissioner of Circuit Nuddea Division,—(No. 315, dated Nuddea, the 20th December 1859.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that there is a report current about the South-eastern part of this District to the effect that Government is opposed to the cultivation of Indigo, and that an order to that purpose will shortly be issued.

2. This report, I believe, to have been spread in particular instances, by designing persons to do their immediate neighbours harm, but I have no doubt that it owes its origin to the occurrences in Barraset, and that it is rapidly spreading and will do much damage in this District, if not checked at once.

3. Both to the Planters, as the Ryots have already without any good cause or other assignable reason began leaguing together against one or two Factories to refuse to cultivate Indigo.

4. And to the Ryots, as they are, so to speak, cutting their own throats, and neglecting all cultivation, and wasting their money and time in litigation, instead of remaining quietly at home and cultivating their lands.

5. I believe it therefore to be very desirable, for the good of both the Ryots and the Planters, at once to put a stop to this false impression, and therefore beg to annex an English proceeding with translation into the Vernacular, which I have prepared, and on which I propose, with your sanction, to issue orders to all Darogahs within whose jurisdiction it may seem necessary so to do.

6. I would beg respectfully to remind you that these groundless rumours spread very fast, and therefore request the favor of your favouring me with a reply as soon as you conveniently can. The season for making the Indigo advances is rapidly passing also, and therefore every day gained is important.

I only propose issuing these orders on the Darogahs of three or four of my South-eastern Thannahs at present, and should therefore not have

troubled you in the matter, had not the subject generally been one of some importance, and one requiring also delicacy of treatment.

WHEREAS it has come to my notice that there is a report among the Ryots of some villages in this District that the Government disapproves of, and is about to issue an order prohibiting, the cultivation of Indigo; and whereas I have strong grounds to suspect that evil disposed persons are spreading this report, to the injury of both Planters and Ryots; it has therefore appeared proper to me to order the Darogahs in whose name this Perwannah is to be issued to proclaim within their jurisdiction notice to the following effect:

That the Government has not issued, nor is it going to issue, any orders prohibiting the cultivation of indigo. This is a matter that solely concerns the Planters and Ryots, and in which Government in no way concerns itself.

At the same time the Darogahs will use all vigilance to detect and apprehend any designing persons found spreading all such foolish and malicious reports, which injure both the good name of the Government and the welfare of its subjects, and will send them in to me without delay to be punished as they may deserve.

From the Commissioner, of the Nuddea Division to the Magistrate of Nuddea,—
(No. 2Ct., dated 3d January 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 315, dated the 20th ultimo, and to inform you in reply that although I am inclined to concur with you that it may be necessary to issue a notice of the description of that forwarded by you, with the view of counteracting the report which you state to be current in the South-eastern parts of your District, regarding the cultivation of Indigo, I would not wish any further steps to be taken towards issuing it until I have myself had an opportunity of visiting the locality referred to, which I hope to be able to do a few days hence, when I will communicate further with you on the subject.

2. At the same time, I beg to point out that the issue of that portion of your proposed Proclamation which is included in the third clause thereof would in my opinion be not only illegal but also injudicious.

3. It would, it appears to me, give the Officers of the Police an authority which they do not possess under the Law, *viz.*, that of arresting and sending in parties who might be found by them to be offending in the manner alluded to, *viz.*, " spreading foolish and " malicious reports injurious to the good name of Government and the welfare of its subjects," and an undue advantage might, not impossibly, be taken to make the clause alluded to a handle for the oppression of innocent parties.

From Lord H. Ulick-Browne, Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(No. 847, dated the 8th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No 36 Circuit, dated the 10th ultimo, submitting some correspondence with Mr. Larmour, relative to the excitement at present prevailing in the Kishnaghur District, which is said to have been occasioned by a Perwannah to the Police issued by Baboo Hemchunder Kur, Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Kalarooah Sub-Division, and in reply to request that you will be so good as to submit for the Lieutenant Governor's information a copy of the Perwannah in question, as soon as possible.

From A. GROTE, ESQ., Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, to the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William,—(No. 66 Ct., dated Allipore, the 9th March 1860.)

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 847, dated 18th instant, I beg to send you copy of the Perwannah in question, with a translation.

2. I believe that his Honor the Lieutenant Governor's order on the Joyrampore petition, which as I informed you in my letter, dated 6th instant, No. 62Ct., I had directed the Magistrate of Nuddea to promulgate, will have an excellent effect in explaining to all parties what the views of Government really are. I have just received a satisfactory assurance to this purport from Mr. Herschel, whose camp I join tomorrow.

3. I take this opportunity of laying before Government a Bengalee letter with translation, which is said to have been intercepted by Mr. Forlong, who handed it on to Mr. Drummond.

It may or may not be authentic; the moderation of its tone inclines me to believe it to be so. At all events agitation from some quarter is at work to promote *petitioning* on the part of the Ryots, while on the other hand the English Press is being *worked* to represent these petitioners as ready for agrarian outrages to which as yet they have shown no disposition.

4. I trust his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor may now have leisure to take up the subject of my letter No. 141C, dated 7th November last In the concluding para. of that letter, I hinted at the possibility of the Police misinterpreting the previous orders of July, though at that time I had only Mr. Mackenzie's assertion that they had done so in the case of the Darogah of Thannah Sarsah. Had Mr. Ward reported in reply to my call, before I left this Office for the Board of Revenue, I should probably have recommended to Government an authoritative cancelment and withdrawal of his Notification, which could not then have caused the mischief now ascribed to it.

Darogah, Thanna Kallarooah.

With reference to a letter dated 17th August last, from the Magistrate of Baraset, forwarding an Extract from a communication from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the address of the Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, No. 4516, under date the 21st July 1859, being to the effect that in cases of dispute about the cultivation of Indigo, Ryots shall retain possession of their respective lands and grow whatever crops they may wish thereon, and that it is incumbent on the Police to see that in so doing they are not molested by Indigo Planters or other parties; further that Planters shall not forcibly sow Indigo on the Ryots' lands on the plea of the latter having entered into agreements with them, but that where such agreements have been entered into by Ryots, it is competent to Indigo Planters to sue them in the Civil Courts, the Criminal Courts having no jurisdiction in such cases, as the Ryots whether admitting or denying their engagements may advance many valid pleas for not cultivating Indigo,—*you are required* for the future to proceed in conformity with the above.—*20th August* 1859.

Translation of Bengalee Letter.

We have learnt from our Mooktear, that the Government intend to depute some Commissioners into the Mofussil in order to hold local inquiry and to report whether the complaints of the Ryots against the oppression on the part of Indigo Planters, as contained in the several petitions presented to Government, and as published in the Newspapers, are correct. The Planters also having been cognizant of this Deputation, threaten the Ryots with wrong, meaning that the Commissioners will come into the Mofussil for the purpose of making the Ryots cultivate Indigo. The object of this misinterpretation is to deter the Ryots from speaking against them, so that the Commissioners will not be able to hear any complaints from the Ryots, and the consequence will be that the complaints already preferred will be falsified, and Government will place no more confidence in any future petitions.

2. The unjust orders of the former Magistrate in cases concerning Indigo have already made an impression on the minds of the Ryots, that all the Authorities are in favor of the Planters, and the wrong interpretation put upon the intended Deputation by the latter, will in the above state of mind, be received by the Ryots as probable. You will therefore explain to all the Ryots that although the orders of the Magistrate might have been unjust they need not be afraid of the threats of the Planters, that they may come forward in thousands to represent their calamities to the Commissioners; that this is the last resource they can resort to, that if they remain silent the Commissioners will report that there is no disturbance in the Mofussil; that it will turn out to their favor if they all at a time present petitions of their complaints, and that those who will make no petitions will not be exempted from cultivating Indigo, nay they will be in the hands of the Planters for eternity, and will have to bear the burden of those exempted from the cultivation as a result of their remonstrances. You will also spread such other threats as will induce the Ryots to combine and make petitions, for the Planters will gather their own people and make them say before the Commissioners that they are not subject to any oppression whatever, and thus there will be no end to the distress of the Ryots. You will further take measures to circulate in Patherghatta also the above suggestions.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Bengalee Translator to Government,—(No. 931, dated the 15th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to forward to you herewith a copy of a Bengalee Perwannah, and to request that you will, as soon as possible, furnish the Lieutenant Governor with an exact and accurate translation thereof.

Two versions in English of this document have been submitted to Government, of which copies are also herewith transmitted. These, you will observe, differ materially in the rendering of some passages. It is the desire of the Lieutenant Governor to ascertain the precise meaning of those passages in particular.

From the Government Bengalee Translator, to A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal,—(dated Serampore, 16th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 931, dated the 15th March 1860, enclosing copy of a Bengalee Perwannah, of which I have the honor to forward, according to your request, an accurate translation. The two versions of it accompanying your letter are also herewith returned.

Translation.

To the Darogah of Thannah Kalarooah. Take notice.—A letter from the Magistrate of Baraset, dated the 17th August 1859, having been received, accompanied by an extract from an English letter from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the address of the Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, dated 21st July, 1859, No. 4516, to the following purport, that in cases of disputes relating to Indigo Ryots shall retain possession of their own lands, and shall sow in them what crops they please, and the Police will be careful that no Indigo Planter nor any one else be able to interfere in the matter, and Indigo Planters shall not be able forcibly to cause Indigo to be sown on the lands of those Ryots on the ground that the Ryots consented to the sowing, &c., of Indigo. If Ryots have so consented, the Indigo Planter may bring an action against them in the Civil Court. The Criminal Court

has no concern in these matters, because notwithstanding such contracts, or such consent withheld or given, Ryots may urge unanswerable excuses against the sowing of Indigo. A copy of Perwannah is therefore issued, and you are requested in future to act accordingly.—*Dated 20th August* 1859.

From A. R. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the HON'BLE A. EDEN, Joint Magistrate of Baraset,—(No. 1193, dated the 24th March 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to forward to you a copy of the correspondence noted on the margin, relative to the excitement at present prevailing in parts of the Nuddea Division in connection with the cultivation of Indigo, which is said to have had its origin partly in an indiscreet Perwannah issued to the Police, and made known by beat of drum in all the principal Bazars of his Sub-Division in August last by your subordinate, Baboo Hem Chunder Kur, Deputy Magistrate of Kalarooah; and I am to request that you will be so good as to submit for the Lieutenant Governor's information an explanation of the circumstances of the case as soon as possible.

Letter from Commissioner of Nuddea, No. 36Ct., dated the 10th February last, with its enclosures.

2. The points upon which the Lieutenant Governor desires to be particularly informed are—first, as to how, that is, in what form, the Government Order of the 21st of July 1859, No. 4516, was forwarded to the Deputy Magistrate; and secondly, as to what portion of it was so forwarded.

3. Your special attention is directed to the second para. of the office note recorded by the Commissioner of Nuddea on the 30th of January last, quoted in para. 6 of his letter, No. 36Ct., dated the 10th ultimo, in which it is stated that the publication of the order in question in the Thannahs was within your cognizance.

4. The Lieutenant Governor observes that it would seem to have been unnecessary, and therefore improper, on your part to make your subordinates acquainted with a discussion on a question of practice between the Government, the Commissioner, and yourself, or with the results thereof, otherwise than in the shape of a bare order sufficient to guide their action into conformity with the decision arrived at.

5. Three separate translations of the Deputy Magistrate's Perwannah are forwarded with this letter. One of these was submitted by the Indigo Planters' Association, another was received from the Commissioner, and the third was obtained from the Bengalee Translator to Government in consequence of the difference between the other two. The last translation, which of course is the one to be regarded officially, places the wording of the Perwannah in the least objectionable form ; but it still leaves the last sentence open to strong objection, as being capable of the interpretation that generally, or indeed always, Ryots have unobjectionable excuses for not growing Indigo although they may have contracted to do so. It may thus be turned into an apparent invitation to Ryots universally to break their contracts.

In so important and delicate an affair it would seem to have been especially incumbent upon you to have given directions to the Deputy Magistrate so carefully worded, that he could not have fallen into this gross error.

7. But the Lieutenant Governor will await your explanation before pronouncing an opinion on the case.

From the Hon'ble A. EDEN, to the Secretay to the Government of Bengal,—
(dated Fort William, the 28th March 1860.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1193, dated 24th March, forwarding a copy of correspondence relative to the excitement at present prevailing in parts of the Nuddea Division in connection with the cultivation of Indigo, which is said to be partly owing to a Perwannah issued to the Police by Baboo Hem Chunder Kur, Deputy Magistrate of Kalarooah, and calling upon me for an explanation of the circumstances of the case as soon as possible.

2. I much regret that this opportunity of furnishing an explanation was not afforded me earlier, so that I might have obtained from Baraset and Kalarooah such papers as I require. I will however endeavour to give all the information I can from such papers as I have by me, and from communications that I have had on this subject with Mr Ward, my successor, and Baboo Hem Chunder Kur.

3. It will be remembered that, early last year, the Ryots of the Bengal Indigo Company applied to me for protection from the threatened forcible dispossession of their lands by Mr. Larmour. The Factories of the Bengal Indigo Company in connection with which these disputes arose, being situated in the Sub-Divisions of Kalarooah and Tarragooney I forwarded the petition in original to Baboo Oboy Churn Bose, then in charge of both Sub-Divisions, and directed him to issue orders for the protection of the complainants, provided that the lands proved to be undoubtedly the Ryots' own. Mr. Larmour complained to the Commissioner, who directed that my order should be cancelled, and that the protection of the Police should be withdrawn from all Ryots, who were alleged by the Planter to be under advances to him for the cultivation of Indigo. As the case was before the Deputy Magistrate of Tarragooney, I at once followed the usual course of forwarding to him Mr. Grote's letter, and directed him to carry out the Commissioner's orders. Having done this, I remonstrated with Mr. Grote against the view he had taken, and some correspondence passed between us on the subject with reference to a difficulty in which the Deputy Magistrate was placed as regarded another Planter, in consequence of these orders.

4. The correspondence was forwarded by the Commissioner to Government, and the decision of Government was communicated in your letter No. 4516, dated 21st July 1859. On the receipt of that letter, I, in the usual course of routine, forwarded a copy by endorsement to the Deputy Magistrate, before whom the cases in question were, and my order to whom had given cause for the reference to Government. The letter of the Commissioner had been forwarded to the Deputy Magistrate, and it was absolutely necessary that he should be informed that the mode of practice laid down by the Commissioner was to be discontinued. It is always the custom to forward such letters to the Officers concerned, and I certainly do not see how the views of Government could have been conveyed to that Officer in a more unobjectionable manner than in the precise words of Government. The difference of opinion between the Commissioner and myself as to the course which the Law prescribed for Magistrates in Indigo disputes was well known to the Deputy Magistrate, and he had himself taken part in the correspondence connected therewith, and it appears to me that it was both necessary and desirable that he should know the grounds and reasoning upon which the Government arrived at the conclusions detailed in that letter. I cannot think that a

simple order emanating from myself, to the effect that the Commissioner's orders were to be considered cancelled, would have been respectful to that Officer, and such a course would certainly have been unusual.

5. The Deputy Magistrate took no action whatever on the Government orders, simply recording them, as it was intended he should do, for his future guidance in Indigo cases.

6. Shortly after this, when Baboo Hem Chunder Kur was transferred from Kaligunge to Kalarooah, he came into Baraset and wished me to get the order for his transfer recalled. Baboo Hem Chunder evinced great reluctance to join his appointment at Kalarooah in consequence of the difficult position in which he would be placed as regarded the Indigo Planters. He urged that the power and influence of the Bengal Indigo Company is such, that no Native Official of independent spirit is willing to be brought into contact with them, and he referred to the case of Moulvie Abdool Luteef, who was removed from the Sub-Division for issuing orders precisely similar to those which I had issued, and which led to the discussion with Mr. Grote. I assured him that if he administered justice in a straightforward and conscientious manner between man and man, he would have no cause to fear any influence that might be brought to bear against him, and I declined to apply for his retention at Kalligunge. He then said that as the greater portion of Mr. Larmour's cultivation was in his Sub-Division, he thought it only right that he should have a copy of the Government orders regarding those disputes that he might be guided by them in any cases that occurred. His request appeared to me to be reasonable, natural, and proper, and I was clearly of opinion that he was entitled to have a copy of the Government ruling on an important practical question of this kind, connected with his Sub-Division, and which would in all probability be constantly referred to in cases pending before him. I saw no necessity however for letting him see the extent to which Mr. Grote and myself differed on this subject, as he had lately arrived in the District and had taken no part in the previous discussion; I therefore merely sent him that portion of the Government letter which related to the general question of Police interference in Indigo disputes. I have nothing before me which enables me to speak authoritatively, but to the best of my belief the portion of the letter sent to him was from the 12th para. to the end of the letter, and this extract was forwarded with my letter annexed hereto.

7. Your letter next directs my attention to the 2nd para. of the office note recorded by Mr. Grote, and quoted in the 6th para. of his letter No. 36, dated 10th February. I cannot but express my regret that Mr. Grote, who was in constant communication with me in Calcutta, should without speaking to me on the subject have seen fit to record that the Deputy Magistrate stated "that the publication of the order in the Thannahs was within 'Mr. Eden's cognizance." I most positively assure his Honor that I had no cognizance whatever of the publication of the order; the first I heard of it was in casual conversation with Mr. Grote, some months after its publication, and the first I saw of it was in the public newspapers, I think that it will be found that its publication did not take place when. I was in charge of the Baraset Magistracy, and could not therefore have been within my cognizance. From what I have since heard from Mr. Ward and Baboo Hem Chunder, I apprehend that Mr. Grote entirely misunderstood the Deputy Magistrate; it will I believe be found on inquiry that what the Deputy Magistrate said was, that the " publication of the Perwannah was known to the *Magistrate of Baraset*, but that he did not know whether that Officer had approved his proceedings," the Magistrate of Baraset here alluded to being Mr. Ward and not myself. From what Mr. Ward said to me I was under the impression that he had fully explained this to Mr. Grote and to Mr. Reid. The Deputy Magistrate's intimation of the publication of this Perwannah to the Magistrate of Baraset will doubtless be found among the Baraset records; the orders passed thereon and the date of its receipt, will show clearly whether or no I was at that time at Barraset. In the mean time it would appear from Mr. Larmour's own letter of the 28th January that the publication of the Perwannah occurred in September last, about one month after I had left the District.

8. Had I remained in the District, I should not have approved of any orders to the notice on the subject of the Government letter, for such orders were then unnecessary, the Indigo cultivation for that season being over. I should have known from past experience that the publication of any such order would, in all probability, have been made use of by the Planters as a convenient excuse to which to attribute the natural unwillingness of their Ryots to sow whenever occasion might require. In the month of August, moreover it was not likely that the Police would be called upon to act on an emergency, and without obtaining the special orders of the Magistrate in each case, and I issued no orders

myself to the Police in the Thannahs under my immediate charge in connection with the Government letter, neither did the Deputy Magistrate of Taragooney. It never occurred to me that it was possible that the Deputy Magistrate of Kalarooah should issue any general orders to the Police, for Sub-Divisional Officers are prohibited from issuing such orders without obtaining the previous sanction of higher authority, and whenever any general orders have been thought necessary, I have always issued them myself to all the Thannahs. Finally it was a case in which general orders were useless, as forcible entry is one of that class of cases which the Police cannot investigate without orders of the Magistrate, and I can only attribute their issue to the fact that Baboo Hem Chunder had been principally employed in the Dacoity Department, and had but little experience as an executive Officer.

9. Having shown that I had no cognizance of the publication of the Perwannah alluded to, I may perhaps be permitted to say a few words in connection with that document. I have no wish whatever to screen myself behind my subordinate, and am desirous of bearing any portion of the responsibility of its issue which can justly and fairly be attributed to me. It is certain that the Deputy Magistrate would not have issued the Perwannah if he had not received a copy of the Government letter upon which it is founded; the responsibility of furnishing him with that copy is clearly mine, my reasons for having done so I have alluded to above, and it is difficult for me to say more without appearing to desire to throw blame upon those whose acts it is not for me to call in question. I may however briefly say that the influence exercised by the Bengal Indigo Company has long been such, that the subordinate Officers of Government in that neighbourhood have been afraid to do their duty, and the Police have in some cases been the instrument made use of by the Planters for oppressing the people. Since the removal of Moulvie Abdool Luteef, no Native Official has dared to act independently, and few Ryots have dared to complain. It is not becoming that I should speak in further detail on the subject, but I would request that His Honor may be pleased to call for the papers connected with the Moulvie's case, and with the decision of the Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs on the appeal made in connection with the Magistrate's proceedings in that case; his Honor will then be enabled to understand, why, amongst other reasons, I thought it necessary to strengthen the hands of the Deputy Magistrate by affording him the benefit of a perusal of the views of Government as to

the protection which it is the duty of the Police to afford to cultivators, more especially as these views were elicited in a case connected with the cultivators of that particular Sub-Division. I have before pointed out to superior authority the very difficult position in which Magisterial Officers are placed for want of an authoritative ruling on the subjects, and I have shown that in this matter, the executive and judicial functions of a District Officer frequently clash, and that in disputes regarding Indigo it is exceedingly difficult to combine expediency with justice; the Government order of July last was that for which I had so often asked for myself and subordinates.

10. It has always been the practice in Districts in which I have been, and I have the authority of several very experienced Officers for stating that the practice generally prevails, of forwarding to the Lower Courts and Sub-Divisional offices all orders whether of Government, or the Sudder Court, laying down a particular course of action in a particular class of cases; and this has been more especially the practice where such orders have reference to cases occurring within the jurisdiction of such subordinate Officers. I may remark that Mr. Grote is mistaken in saying that the communication of these orders was in this case injudicious on the ground that the Deputy Magistrate has an imperfect knowledge of English, for I believe that there are few Natives of this country who possess so accurate a knowledge of our language as the Officer in question.

11. It never occurred to me that there was anything in the Government letter, which was likely to cause mischief or to be misunderstood; it appeared to me to be a full, clear, and conclusive exposition of the Law as it stands, and I have for the last three years based orders upon the principles therein upheld.

12. In the 8th para. of that letter you remark this is a most important practical question, and the Lieutenant Governor thinks it is strange that it has not been authoritatively determined before now, as cases of this sort are of daily occurrence. Fully concurring in this view, I was of opinion that I was acting with propriety in communicating this most important ruling to those who above all required it, and who looked to me for instruction and advice; it even appears to me that I should have incurred grave responsibility had I kept the Government order secret.

13. In your letter now under reply, the last para. of the Deputy Magistrate's Perwannah is pointed out as being open to the objection

that it is capable of the interpretation, that generally or indeed always Ryots have unobjectionable excuses for not growing Indigo although they may have contracted to do so. The wording of the Government letter is this, "The Ryots may confess the engagement and still have many irresistible pleas to avoid the consequence the Planter insists upon. The wording of the Deputy Magistrate's Perwannah is: "The Crimi- "nal Court has no concern in these matters, because notwithstanding "such contracts or such consent withheld or given, Ryots may urge "unanswerable excuses against the sowing of Indigo." The wording of my letter was "Such promises can only be produced against the Ryots in the Civil Court, and the Magisterial Authorities have nothing to do with them, for there must be two parties to a promise, and it is possible that the Ryot even whose promises or contracts are admitted may still have many irresistible pleas to avoid the consequence the Planter insists upon.—The consequence alluded to being the forcible dispossession of the Ryot by the Planter.—The question was, whether if the Planter asserted that the Ryot had agreed to sow Indigo such Ryot had a right, supposing him to admit the existence of a contract, to demand the assistance of the Magistrate when threatened with being ousted from his land. My meaning in saying that even when he admitted his contract, he might still urge irresistible pleas why he should not be summarily dealt with, and such pleas as the Civil Court alone would be qualified in adjudicating on, may be more fully understood from the following extract of a letter which I had the honor to address to the Commissioner of Nuddea in June 1858: "Another reason "suggests itself to me why the Criminal Court should neither adjudicate "summarily in questions of contracts to sow Indigo, nor compel their "enforcement. Even supposing such contracts to be voluntary engage- "ments, their non-fulfilment would not necessarily imply fraud. The "Ryot might have taken the advance with the distinct intention of "sowing the amount of Indigo engaged for, but if by the oppression "of his zemindars, or loss of his cattle, or other misfortune, he is unable "to carry out his intention without the slightest *mala fides*, it would "be very unfair that he should be treated as a criminal, and it would "become a mere question of adjudication as to what amount of advance "and what interest he should return. This, I apprehend, could only "be decided as a civil suit, and such objections would in all pro- "bability be raised in every case of non-fulfilment of contracts, the

" Magistrate's Office would be converted into a Civil Court to adjust a " question of damages."

14. My object in quoting that portion of the Government letter was to draw the Deputy Magistrate's attention to what appeared to me to be the real and main objection to the refusal to afford protection to Ryots on the allegation of a promise. It never suggested itself to me for one moment that the Deputy Magistrate would take any action on the letter except so far as it might guide his own judgment in cases then before him, or which might arise. I have no doubt that the meaning of the Deputy Magistrate was precisely the same as my own; indeed, it is not possible that he can have made any mistake, for the Government letter gave an example of the kind of plea alluded to. It cannot be said that I have ever given any order likely to make the Ryots believe that they would receive any sanction from me in evading their existing engagements, for I have frequently advised them, when they have complained to me, that whatever the hardship involved, it was their duty to fulfil their engagements, and to make what objections they had to make to the cultivation, after so doing, as the entering into such engagements was quite optional, and that they were entitled to protection for any coercion used to make them so engage. At the same time, I have never allowed the Planters to enforce their contracts in any manner not authorized by Law, neither have I allowed my Court and the Courts of my subordinates to usurp the functions of the Civil Court, and to receive and adjudicate on plaints and pleas connected with the fulfilment of contracts.

15. I may perhaps be allowed to make some remarks as to the extent to which the Deputy Magistrate's Perwannah can be said to have influenced the Ryots in refusing to cultivate Indigo. This Perwannah was, Mr. Larmour says, issued in September, a period of the year at which in that part of the country the Indigo business is altogether at a standstill, as far as the Ryots are concerned; the engagements for the ensuing year being made in November and December. If then the impression caused by the Deputy Magistrate's Perwannah was that Government was opposed to the cultivation of Indigo, the Ryots would have had the courage in November to refuse to go to the Factory, and to complain in the event of their having advances forced upon them, but it does not appear from Mr. Larmour's letter that they did anything; they were altogether unaffected by the Perwannah; they came, he says " as usual to the Factory and adjusted their accounts;" " everything," he continues,

" went on smoothly" until many months subsequent to its publication, and in fact until certain petitions were presented to the Deputy Magistrate when on his cold weather tour; and even these petitions are not attributed to the influence of the Perwannah, but are alleged by Mr. Larmour to have been made at the instigation of Baboo Syam Chunder Pal Chowdry, a person with whom the Bengal Indigo Company have for many years been at feud. Mr. Larmour's complaint indeed is simply this,—that the Deputy Magistrate, instead of accepting Mr. Larmour's character and the state of the Sub-Division as *primâ facie* evidence of the falseness of the charges, and rejecting the petitions accordingly, directed the Police to protect the Ryots if necessary. This proceeding appears to Mr. Larmour to have been equivalent to taking it for granted that he intended to oppress his Ryots, and he construes it into an encouragement to them not to sow Indigo; but I submit that if, as he says, he had no intention to coerce his Ryots or to use lateeals, the Deputy Magistrate's order to protect the Ryots from such lateeals could not possibly affect him.

16. It would further appear that these Ryots have opposed Mr. Larmour on previous occasions, two years before the Perwannah was written, and before Baboo Hemchunder came to the District, for he says in his letter of the 28th January that " it is only two years since Syamchunder Pal Chowdry's people nearly murdered my Assistant Mr. Cockshott." I would submit with reference to the above that there is no more reason to attribute the acts of Syam Chunder's people on the present occasion to the Deputy Magistrate's Perwannah than there was on the previous occasion. Mr. Larmour has for many years been at constant feud with the Zemindars and cultivators all around him; and has invariably attributed, the natural opposition of the people to his proceedings, to the acts of Government Officers. One year he attributed the reluctance of his Ryots to sow to the proceedings of Moulvie Abdool Luteef; another year to an order given by myself in connection with the measurement of some land; the year following it was attributed to a roobocaree drawn up in the Hobrah case; and now this year it is said to be owing to the orders of Baboo Hemchunder Kur on the petition of certain Ryots. So far from its being correct that " from year's end to year's end there is never a complaint made against him or his servants," I can speak from personal knowledge that there are few Factories against which so many complaints are made. That no complaints may be made in Nuddea is

possible, and may be accounted for by the fact which he mentions, that the Bengal Indigo Company's Concern extends over, one-third of the District; with such power, complaint at a distant station would be impossible.

17. It may be that the Deputy Magistrate's Perwannah was injudicious, but I do not think that it can be said to have invited the Ryots to break their engagements, seeing that at the time of year at which it was published there were no engagements entered into. I think it is clear from Mr. Larmour's own statements that it did not have this effect; and that he never supposed it would have any such effect; his Factories are in the immediate neighbourhood of Kalarooah, his Ryots would be the first to be influenced, yet they showed no signs of being so influenced; they behaved as usual, and Mr. Larmour so far from acting as if he thought that they had received encouragement to act dishonestly, gave them advances some five months after the publication of the Perwannah, which he surely would not have done had he believed the Perwannah to have the effect which he now attributes to it.

18. Mr. Mackenzie, another Indigo manufacturer, complained, I understand, that the effect of the Perwannah was that the Ryots *declined his advances.* This, I submit, is scarcely consistent with the supposition that the Perwannah induced them to believe that they might take advances, and leave their engagements unfulfilled with impunity. In continuation of this subject, I would point out that Mr. Forlong, another manufacturer of the Nuddea District, attributed the independent tone adopted by the Ryots to the Government orders in the case against Mr. White; and again, the Magistrate of Jessore, in the extract of his letter which you have forwarded to me, says that the rumour in the Jessore District was with reference to some expressions which were supposed to have been made use of by the Lieutenant-Governor at Nuddea. The only remaining evidence which tends to connect the Deputy Magistrate's Perwannah with the unwillingness of the Ryots to sow, is to be found in the reports of Mr. Reid and Mr. Drummond. Mr. Drummond says that a rumour existed at the end of December last, that an order was "shortly to be issued" to the effect that Government was opposed to the cultivation of Indigo; he does not say that any rumour existed that such an order had been issued; this rumour, Mr. Drummond had no doubt, owed its origin to the "occurrences" in Baraset, though what these occurrences were is not specified. Mr. Reid thought that the disinclination of the Baraset Ryots to sow was partly owing to the Deputy

Magistrate's Perwannah. It should however be recollected that both these gentlemen were quite new to the District; they believed this disinclination to be sudden, and were of course ignorant that Mr. Larmour had precisely the same difficulty in making his Ryots sow every year. They probably did not know that at the beginning of 1858 many of Mr. Larmour's Ryots positively refused to sow, and that by the Commissioner's orders I was compelled to go out and persuade them to do so. They could not moreover have been aware that the combination of the Baraset Ryots had commenced in the time of my predecessor, Mr. Mangles, and that complaints to Government were made against him for protecting the Ryots in the same manner as they have been made against me.

19. Having endeavoured to show that the Deputy Magistrate's Perwannah has not been the cause of the Ryots' refusal to trade in Indigo, I trust I shall be excused for now stating what I conscientiously believe to be the real cause of the opposition of the Ryots to the manufacturers, and the rumour that Government was opposed to Indigo cultivation. This crisis has been long threatening, and my only surprise is that it has been warded off so long. Mr. Grote will, I have no doubt, do me the justice to admit that frequently within the last three years I have communicated to him my apprehensions, that if steps were not taken to alleviate the condition of the Indigo cultivators some such manifestation of feeling would result. As long ago as June 1858, I officially wrote: "The question appears to render itself into this;—which is of the most importance, that a certain quantity of a particular blue dye should be annually exported, or that a great and daily increasing, cause of discontent and misery to the whole agricultural population of Bengal should be removed? That this discontent is increasing and is the constant topic of conversation amongst all classes of Natives, cannot be denied by those who have an opportunity of judging of the real feelings of the Natives; I believe that this feeling has been very much enhanced by an idea that the Government is determined to uphold the Planter against the Ryot, and I think that there is cause to view with considerable alarm the enactment of any measure which will encourage the belief that the Planter will be invested with more summary power." In the same letter, I strongly recommended that a Committee should be appointed to inquire into the system of Indigo cultivation. I cannot but think that if my continual

representations, supported as I believe them to have been, by the opinions of several other District Magistrate's had received attention at the time, the result would have been a general inquiry which would have had the effect of putting the Indigo trade on a more healthy footing, and have obviated the extreme measures which the Ryots have now resorted to.

20. Year by year the value of land, especially in the suburban District; has risen, the profit of cereals, seeds, and tobacco crops has also increased; the wages of labor have been doubled; and of course the necessaries of life have increased in price proportionately. The Indigo manufacturer however has ignored all these signs of the times; his only argument has been that for thirty years the price of Indigo has been 5 bundles for the Rupee, and that any demand of the Ryots for a more liberal payment has been an insolent infringement of his vested rights, and this insolence he has believed to be engendered by an uncalled-for solicitude on the part of the Government for the welfare of the lower classes. The more it became for the interest of the Ryot to sow crops other than Indigo, the greater the force which the Planter was compelled to use to keep up the Indigo cultivation. So long as there was but one Magistrate in each District, the power of coercion possessed by a manufacturer, who was also a Zemindar, was unlimited; within the last few years, however, Sub-Divisions have been scattered over the face of the country, and every Ryot has had a Magisterial Officer within one day's journey from his home; the much abused power of the Zemindar to enforce the attendance of his Ryots at his Cutcherry, under the protest of adjusting his accounts, has at the same time been withdrawn by Law; and the Ryots have discovered that they are not the mere slaves of the Zemindar and Indigo Factor; and the result has been inevitable, and a mere question of time.

21. At the latter end of 1858, two gentlemen connected with the Indigo trade called upon me to ask me to induce the Ryots of certain Pergunnahs to take advances from them for the cultivation of Indigo. I declined, and pointed out to them that an appeal to the self-interest of the cultivators was the only course open to them. That same day they complained of me to Mr. Halliday, the Lieutenant-Governor, for encouraging the cultivators to combine against the Factories. The result, as his Honor is aware, was an interview at which certain persons representing the Indigo interests and myself were brought face to face. Mr. Halliday recorded that I had been asked to do that which I could not be

reasonably expected to do ; a compromise was suggested, and I was directed to use my influence with the Ryots to induce them to go to the Factory to adjust their old accounts. I was to instruct them fully what their rights were as regarded the cultivation of Indigo, and I was to depute one of my Ministerial Officers to accompany the Ryots to the Factory to see that no attempt was made to force them into signing new contracts, the owner of the Factories signing an agreement that no such force should be used. I demurred to this, being well aware that the effect of authoritatively explaining their rights to the Ryots would be that they would at once decline all further connection with the cultivation of Indigo, and that the Factories would gradually be closed and that I should then be blamed, as the first explanation would have emanated from me. Mr. Halliday overruled my objections, stating that as this course had been agreed to by the representatives of the parties interested, I could not be blamed if the result of the course agreed to resulted in a manner unfavorable to themselves. I sent for the Ryots, and explained to them their freedom to enter into such engagements, or not, as they saw fit; and the result was that the factories in Baraset were at once closed as I had anticipated. My explanation to the Ryots I had taken the precaution to put in writing, and this was complained of to Government, and my proceedings were approved in your letter No. 3066, dated 13th May 1859.

22. The Baraset Factories are situated on the road from Nuddea and Jessore to Calcutta ; Ryots from those districts could see the Baraset cultivators in the undisturbed enjoyment of their own lands, and communications doubtless passed between them, which led to formal applications from various sources for copies of the orders in the Hobrah case. I took the precaution before giving these copies of obtaining the sanction of the Commissioner of the Division. These are the orders which have in my opinion given rise to the rumour that Government was opposed to the cultivation of Indigo. These orders declared that the entering into contracts for Indigo cultivation was optional, and the whole Indigo system being one of force, it is not difficult to understand how a prohibition against force could be interpreted into an intention to discourage the cultivation of Indigo. As Ryots were not to be compelled to sow Indigo, and as they know well that no Ryots sowed unless under compulsion, their natural deduction was that Government was opposed, not to the cultivation of Indigo as a voluntary crop, but to the cultivation of Indigo under its present system. I sincerely believe that

this is the cause of the rumour and the manner in which my name has been mixed up in it.

23. I have thought it only right to all those concerned thus to communicate to Government the manner in which I believe the present complication to have arisen, and I now submit this explanation of my conduct and views to the consideration of Government, with the full assurance, that whatever results the public may see fit to attribute to my acts, the Government will be satisfied that I have acted consistently and justly throughout; and that I have been influenced solely by the most conscientious desire to fulfil my duty as a Magistrate to the people of the District under my charge. I would respectfully urge that my impartiality is borne out by the fact that no decision or judgment which I have ever given in Indigo disputes has been reversed in appeal, which would assuredly have been the case had my proceedings been actuated by that bias which has been so frequently and unfairly attributed to me. If in my endeavours to afford to the Ryots of Baraset that protection from violence which it was their legal right to demand, I have in any way injuriously affected the interests of those engaged in the manufacture of Indigo; such result must be attributed to the fact that the system under which that manufacture is at present conducted is opposed to the principles of fair dealing and justice, and not, I would submit, to any unwarrantable prejudice which I have imbibed in favor of one class of Her Majesty's subjects as against another.

From the Hon'ble A. Eden, Magistrate of Baraset, to Baboo Hemchunder Kur, Deputy Magistrate, Kalarooah Sub-Divison.

Sir,

As the cultivation of Indigo is carried on to a considerable extent in your Sub-Division, I beg to forward for your information and guidance extracts from a letter No. 4516, dated 21st July 1859, from the Secretary to the Governmant of Bengal to the Commissioner of the Nuddea Division.

You will perceive that the course laid down for the Police in Indigo disputes, is to protect the Ryot in the possession of his lands, on which he is at liberty to sow any crop he likes, without any interference on the

part of the Planter or any one else. The Planter is not at liberty, under the pretext of the Ryots having promised to sow Indigo for him, to enter forcibly upon the land of the Ryot. Such promises can only be produced against the Ryot in the Civil Court, and the Magisterial Authorities have nothing to do with them, for there must be two parties to a promise; and it is possible that the Ryots, whose promises or contracts are admitted, may still have many irresistible pleas to avoid the consequence the Planter insists upon.

Criminal Appeal No. 137 *of* 1854, *against a decision of Alexander Hope, Esq., Joint Magistrate of Baraset.*

Proceeding of J. S. Torrens, Esquire, Sessions Judge of the 24-*Pergunnahs, under date the* 27*th of June* 1854.

Gour Mohun Dhur,
Muddoosoodun Ghose,
Duraj Mundle,
Hossein Gagil,
Souder Gagil,
Shurufdi Mundle,
Nubin Duffadar,
Joidi Sirdar,
Buckshoo Gagi,
Choto Soonder Mundle,
Kassynath Dass,
Jerapdi Mundle,
Rostum Duffadar,
Jahed Gagil,
Pritram Dass,
} Former Defendants, Petitioners.

versus

Putoo Khalasie, on the part of Mr. Larmour, of Patragatchee.
} Former Plaintiff, 2nd Party.

CHARGE.

BY riotous assemblage and use of violence, destroying a crop of Indigo raised on land previously engaged for by the Plaintiff's master, and sowing thereon a crop of Paddy.

The records of the Petitioners' appeal and the original case in the Criminal Court having been read and heard in the presence of Moonshees Kristomohun Gose and Shuddba Shi Biswas, pleaders on the part of the Petitioners, and Boidonath Bose, Mooktear for the 2nd party, the following facts became apparent to the court.

That the Joint Magistrate had, by his order of the 20th May 1854, sentenced the Defendants Gour and Mudhoo to six months' imprisonment each, with labour commutable to a fine of 30 Rupees each, finding them to have been the principal movers of the affray in question, and the rest of the Defendants to four months' imprisonment each, and each to pay a fine of 15 Rupees within a week in lieu of labor, or in default to labor, and ordered that at the time of release, on the expiry of the term of sentence, recognizances under Act V. of 1848 be taken for one year from the Defendants Gour and Mudhoo, in the sum of Rupees 200 each, and Rupees 50 each from the other Defendants.

That against this order of the Joint Magistrate the Petitioners had preferred this appeal, and that at the time of hearing the case, the Mooktear on the part of the 2nd party having been asked as to whom the lands mentioned in the case by his client belonged, that party admitted them in his answer to belong to the Ryots, Defendants. It then appeared to the Sessions Judge, that the Joint Magistrate's order sentencing the prisoners does not show what specific charge or count was established against each of them, his proceeding simply showing that the Defendants having received an advance from the managers or owners of the Indigo Factory, had destroyed the Indigo crop of the Plaintiff's master by causing a riotus assemblage and by resorting to violence; but this charge did not appear to the Sessions Judge to have been brought home to the Defendants by the evidence of the witnesses for the prosecution; as witnesses Buktar Khalashi, Addut Khalashi, Burkut Oollah Khalashi and Chamoo Gagil, stated on oath that the Defendants had threatened to attack the Plaintiff's master, and had surrounded him on all sides while on the spot; but Mr. Larmour declared that the Ryots, Defendants, fled away when he repaired to the place; hence the testimony of the aforenamed four witnesses, who were also found to have been employed in the Factory

was considered to be unworthy of confidence. Secondly, it further appeared from the deposition of the Plaintiff's Mooktear and the records of the case, that the land on which the alleged damage was caused, belonged to the Ryots, Defendants, and though it appeared from the depositions of Messrs. Larmour and Goodelp and the abovenamed four witnesses that the Ryots of that village had taken advances from the Indigo Factory, still none of the witnesses could say which of the Defendants had taken the advance, and willingly cultivated Indigo for the Saheb, and subsequently destroyed the crop, while from the testimony of the aforesaid Buktar and 3 others, it appeared that being servants to the Factory, they had themselves gone to cultivate the remaining portion of the lands, hence from their depositions it could be inferred that the land on which Indigo was sown had been cultivated by the Factory servants, and that nothing had been adduced to show that the Ryots Defendants, had willingly received an advance and cultivated Indigo on the land.

It was further remarked, as the opinion of the Sessions Judge, that a contract entered into by a person for sowing a particular crop on his land can under no Law take the land from his control or possession, and that default to carry out the terms of a contract can only make the defaulter liable to be sued in the Civil Court. Under the above circumstances, the Joint Magistrate's order of the 20th May 1854 was set aside, and the Defendants were ordered to be released, and the amount of the fine imposed upon them in lieu of labor, if realized, was directed to be refunded to them, and that a copy of this proceeding was to be sent with the original records of the case to the Joint Magistrate for carrying the above order into effect.

The following were the grounds of Appeal urged by the Defendants against the Decision of the Joint Magistrate.

1. THAT the action had been instituted by Mr. Larmour, through his servant Putoo Khalasi, to compel the Defendants to enter into an engagement with him for the cultivation of Indigo, but his allegations not having been in any way established, the Deputy Magistrate before whom the case was originally instituted, considered it unnecessary to summon the Defendants; but Mr. Larmour having petitioned the Commissioner of the Nuddea Division, complaining against the indifference exhibited by the Deputy Magistrate to try the case, that Authority requested the Joint Magistrate to take up the case himself when the latter Officer

repaired to Kalarooah, and getting the case transferred to his file from that of the Deputy Magistrate, proceeded to the spot to hold a local inquiry, which he completed without taking the depositions of any person residing in the neighbourhood, but relying upon the evidence given by four Khalasees, servants of the Factory, living at a distance, and considering a different piece of *shali* land shown by a Khalasee, upon which were found four or five Indigo plants, to be identical with that belonging to the Defendants, and laying some stress upon popular report, be considered the Plaintiff's statements to have been satisfactorily established, and upon that conviction passed a severe sentence upon the Defendants, imprisoning them to long terms, and imposing upon them other severe penalties. Defendants then deny having received any advance for the cultivation of Indigo, for had they done so, their kubooleut could have been filed. They further stated that the witnesses, residents of the neighbouring villages, examined by them in support of their defence, corroborated their pleas of non-receipt of advance, their non-cultivation of Indigo for the Saheb and their doing nothing subsequently to damage the crop. Hence they contended that the Joint Magistrate was wrong in passing the above sentence upon them.

2. Defendants then point out that the Plaintiff, in his petition of the 11th Bysack, complained of the Defendants Gour Dhur and Mudhosoodun Ghose having in collusion with the other Defendants destroyed the Indigo plants; but in his deposition on the 11th and 12th idem, he made a different statement, that is, he charged the Defendants Gour and Mudhco of having ordered the other Defendants to commit the above damage, while sitting on the road running to the north of Jaidee Gazi's house; but there being no road on the north of Jaidee Gazi's house, and the Plaintiff's allegations in his petition and examination being opposed to each other, the action preferred by him should have been considered unfounded. It further appeared, the Defendants state, from the Plaintiff's deposition, that on the 11th and 12th Bysack, he himself came to sow the remaining quantity of Indigo, but witness Buktar stated that he had come to the place of occurrence to cultivate Indigo, accompanied by Burkut, Purodi and Adur, and that the defendants on receipt of an order from Gour Dhur and others threatened to attack the Saheb, and that Gour Dhur was not present there, but was passing to and fro with Muddoosooden near the house of Thurapdi and Jerapudi, and witness Adat stated that Gour and Muddhoo were the parties who gave the order, while witness Burkut Khalasee declared that in company with

Buktar he had gone to sow Indigo, and on the 11th Bysack saw Gour and Muddhoo give the order, while standing on the South of Shurapdis' house, and on the 12th, while standing near the house of Hermut. Defendants then state that none of the witnesses could mention the area and boundaries of the land in question; and that they stated that they never knew the Defendants, but having lived at the place for 8 or 10 days, they could identify them. Under the above circumstances, Defendants point out that the deposition of the Plaintiff and that of his witnesses being opposed to each other, the unfounded nature of the Plaintiff's complaint had become apparent; hence the order passed upon the Defendants was unjust.

3. The allegation of the Plaintiff charging the Defendants Gour and Mudhoo of having sown upon their land a crop of Paddy in removal of one of Indigo, which had been at first cultivated, would, the Defendants contend, appear to be opposed to probability; for had the Defendants really received an advance and cultivated Indigo on their land, they could not have been so much devoid of common sense as to destroy it to the prejudice of their own interests; and the Defendants Gour and Mudoosoodun state that not having any connection with the Defendants, their collusion with them could never prevail upon the latter to commit an act entailing such a loss upon them.

4. The Joint Magistrate was wrong in considering the Plaintiffs' allegations to have been established from the result of the local investigation conducted by Judubindoo Biswas, as from the depositions taken by this Officer of Dhununjoy Mokerjea, the Factory Gomashta, and Rungoo Mollah, Ameen, it appeared that the Ryots had destroyed the Indigo in collusion with one Kallee Kisore Roy of Bag Achra, but that there was no proof in support of this allegation; further in the petition presented by the Plaintiff before the Deputy Magistrate, the fact of there being a collusion with the above Roy was mentioned; and in the petition presented by Mr. Larmour himself no mention was made of the names of the Defendants Gour and Muddhoo; hence they contend they could not have been considered guilty of any offence from any subsequent statements made by the Plaintiff and his witnesses in contradiction to each other, much less punished as the principal offenders. They therefore point out that on a reference being made by the Sessions Court to the above-mentioned petitions and depositions, the illegality of the Joint Magistrate's order will become apparent.

5. Two plots of Rice land different from that in dispute, on which however were found five or six Indigo plants, were shown to the Joint Magistrate in the Defendant's absence, as the land from which the Indigo crop was alleged to have been removed, and the Joint Magistrate without examining the residents of the spot, from whom the real facts could have been learnt, relied upon the statements of the Plaintiff and the Ameen Bukoo, who was an enemy to the Defendants; and considering the land belonging to other persons, upon which however some Indigo seeds had unconsciously been sown with a Paddy crop, to be identical with the land in dispute, the Joint Magistrate passed the above order upon the Defendants, the illegality of which would become apparent on the above circumstances being taken into consideration with the records of the case.

The Defendants therefore pray that the Joint Magistrate's order may be set aside, and themselves absolved from all liability.

From A. R. YOUNG, ESQ., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the HON'BLE ASHLEY EDEN,— (No. 1559, dated the 7th April 1860.)

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 28th ultimo, submitting the explanation called for in my letter No. 1193, dated the 24th idem; and in reply to communicate to you the following observations of the Lieutenant Governor on the subject.

2. It appears that on receiving through the Commissioner of Nuddea the Government Orders of the 21st of July last, passed upon the general question of Police interference in cases of disputes connected with the cultivation of Indigo, which had been under discussion between yourself and the Commissioner, and which had been referred for the decision of Government, you forwarded a copy of those orders to Baboo Obhoy Churn Bhose, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Tarragooney, and for the moment of Kalarooah also, the two Sub-Divisions in which the cases had occurred, which gave immediate occasion to the reference to Government. Baboo Obhoy Churn Bose took no action on these orders, simply recording them, as it was intended he should do, for his future guidance in Indigo cases. And it has not been alleged that any

ill consequences arose from your communication to Baboo Obhoy Churn Bose.

3. It is freely admitted that you did no more than your duty, in explaining fully to your subordinate Police Officer the principle by which he was in future to be guided, according to the decision of Government in cases such as those to which the decision of Government applied, and with respect to which, previously, the practice had been various, uncertain, and often contrary to Law.

4. But, as a point of form, it cannot be admitted that, in sending down to a subordinate Officer the argued decision of Government upon a general question, which had been closely discussed between yourself and your own immediate official superior, you did what was regular or usual in such cases, or necessary for the attainment of the object in view. The Sub-Divisional Officer had had no part in the discussion between the Commissioner of the Division and yourself, at least so far as it had been referred for the decision of Government, and he therefore had no more concern with the arguments than any other Sub-Divisional Officer in Bengal.

5. It appears further, that on Baboo Hem Chunder Kur being appointed to the Kalarooah Sub-Division he also applied for a copy of the decision of Government for his guidance; and that though you saw no necessity for letting the Sub-Divisional Officer see how far the Commissioner and yourself had differed, you supplied him with an extract from that decision, being "that portion of the Government "letter which related to the general question of Police interference in "Indigo disputes."

6. This was not the regular manner of proceeding. The orders of Government in question were not written with a view to their being treated in the manner of a Rule published for the general guidance of all Officers in charge of the Police.

7. The regular and safer course would have been to have prepared very carefully a Vernacular paper, containing practical directions in accordance with the orders on the particular reference that had been made to Government; and to have sent it to the Native Deputy Magistrate, who then could not have made any mistake in conveying his own orders to the Thannadars, as occasion demanded, which is all that it concerned him to do.

8. In regard to the publication of the Purwannah issued by Baboo Hem Chunder Kur your answer is conclusive. You had given over

charge of the District of Barasat to your successor before the Perwannah in question was issued, and it is clear that you had no concern whatever in its publication, and that you are in no way responsible for it whether in respect to its wording or in any other respect. This is the only material part of the charges that have been made against you, and the Lieutenant-Governor has much pleasure in finding it to be wholly without foundation.

9. In the minor matter of the point of form above noticed, the Lieutenant Governor imputes no blame to you; and on the whole he is thoroughly satisfied with your explanation.

From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Commissioner of Nuddea,—(No. 1560, dated the 7th April 1860.

Sir,

With reference to your letters of the 10th February and 9th ultimo, Nos. 36Ct. and 66Ct. respectively, I am directed to forward for your information a copy of the explanation furnished by Mr. Eden in the matter of the Perwannah to which that correspondence relates, and of the observations of the Lieutenant Governor thereon.

It remains to be considered whether the Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Hem Chunder Kur, is to blame for the publication of that Perwannah in the manner described by Mr. Larmour, if such publication actually took place.

I am directed therefore to request that you will call upon Baboo Hem Chunder Kur, Deputy Magistrate of Kalarooah, to submit to Government, through you, a full explanation of the circumstances connected with the publication of the Perwannah, which was issued by him in August 1859 to the Police of his Sub-Division. You will be so good as to direct his especial attention to the faultiness of the wording, as is apparent from the version of the Perwannah obtained from the Government Bengalee Translator, a copy of which is herewith forwarded.